

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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WHAT NOW FOR PAUL GASCOIGNE?

SOCCEROO STAR STEVE CORICA HEADING OVERSEAS



ABS W



Aaron Holst, who played in the World Youth Championship's with the Young Socceroos, has now retired from football because of money problems.



ROUND 11

26TH DECEMBER

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26

South Melbourne	v	Brisbane Strikers	Middle Park	6.00pm
Melbourne BUSC	v	Melbourne Knights	Melb. Croatian SC	6.00pm
Newcastle BHP	v	Heidelberg United	Mitre 10 Stad.	7.30pm
Morwell Falcons	v	Marconi Fairfield	Morwell Falc. Pk	7.00pm
Parramatta Eagles	v	Adelaide City	Melita Stadium	6.30pm
West Adelaide	v	Sydney Olympic	Hindmarsh Stad.	7.30pm
Sydney United	v	Wollongong City	Sydney Croatia SC	6.30pm

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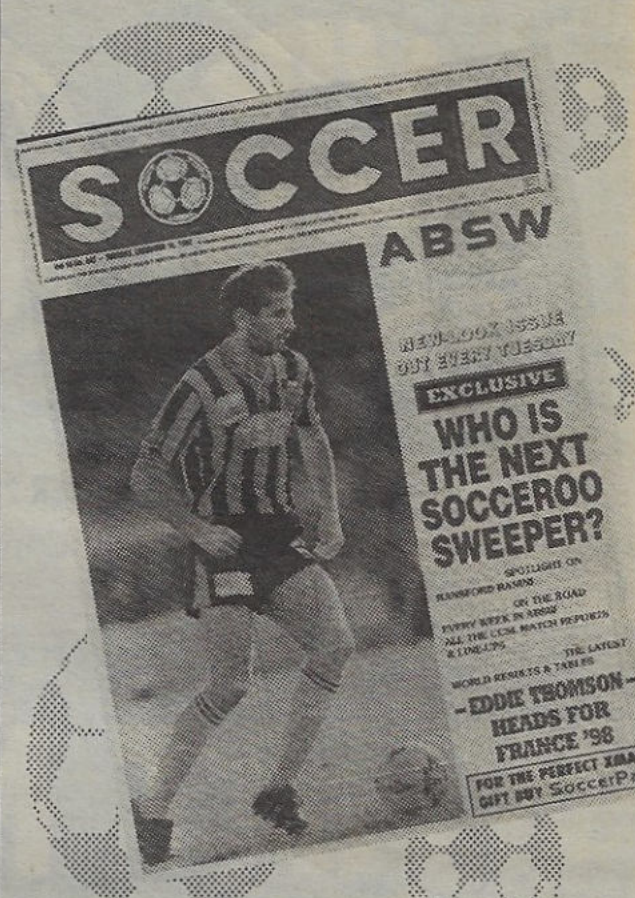
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- THE EDITOR

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WEEKLY

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James

Street, Perth 6000 Tel: 328 4779

EDITOR:

Stephen Copping

CHIEF SUB:

Alfred Hiatt

MELBOURNE EDITOR:

Greg Blake

STAFF REPORTER:

John Economos

LAYOUT:

Sally Chant

Nektarios Kougellis

TYPESETTING:

Mary Quartly

PHOTOGRAPHY:

JRP

CORRESPONDENTS

SYDNEY:

Alistair Russell

MELBOURNE:

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WOLLONGONG:

Phil Murphy

Sth AUSTRALIA:

Tom McKain

ADVERTISING

Sydney: John Economos (02) 560 3900,

Melbourne: Greg Blake (03) 663 4411.

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AUSTRALIA IN BRIEF...

OPTUS SPONSORS SOCCER

OPTUS COMMUNICATIONS became a major sponsor of Australian Soccer with a package deal that will embrace all National team matches plus the Coca Cola Soccer League games.

At a press launch staged at the Sydney Football Stadium last Friday, in welcoming Optus as a major sponsor, the Chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation, Mr John Constantine stated: "Australian Soccer has had its most successful year ever and companies such as Optus have been quick to take advantage of soccer's increased profile."



John Constantine

Mr Russell Scrimshaw, Optus Communications' Director of Marketing, said: "Soccer is one of the world's most popular sports, so this is a logical partnership for Optus, a company that keeps Australians in contact with the rest of the world."

The dollar value of the Optus sponsorship, although not disclosed, is believed to be a \$300,000 which is anticipated to be directly distributed to all the CCSL clubs.

The deal between Optus and the ASF is immediately effective, and has an expiry date of September 1994.

Optus in return will receive ground signage, at all Coca Cola Soccer League grounds, plus logo badges on all team shirts.

Optus earlier this year was heavily involved with the major sponsorship of AC Milan's tour of Australia.

The giant telecommunications Company backed-up with major Match Day sponsorships of Australia's two home World Cup qualifiers against Canada and Argentina.

— JOHN ECONOMOS

MERRY XMAS TO OUR READERS

Australian and British Soccer Weekly would like to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. The good news is that we will still be covering all the CCSL games over the holiday period. Australian and British Soccer Weekly will also be publishing all the World Results. ABSW will be published, as usual, on Tuesday, December 28 and Tuesday, January 4, 1994. Remember, for the perfect Xmas gift, how about a year's subscription to ABSW?

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER F.C. SPECIAL

FAMILY ADMISSION COUPON

On presentation of this "FAMILY" Coupon, one male, one female plus one child (under 16) shall be admitted to the Outer Ground for the cost of one adult token (\$10). The Special Offer applies ONLY for the Coca-Cola Soccer League Round 12 Match between

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC
and
SOUTH MELBOURNE**
at Leichhardt Oval on Wednesday 29
December, 1993.

— Seasons Greetings —

STEVE CORICA: HEADING OVERSEAS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MILLION DOLLAR MAN

BY ANTHONY RAINERI

Steve Corica, Marconi-Fairfield's star in the making, will earn the tag "million dollar man" when he becomes the first Australian player to be exported for \$1 million.

That is the size of the transfer fee Marconi will receive when the talented Corica inevitably leaves for the football goldmine of Europe, most probably at the end of this Coca-Cola Soccer League season.

"We are expecting Steve Corica to be sold for \$1 million," Marconi coach Frank Arok said before Marconi's 3-1 win against Newcastle last Saturday.

And Arok wasn't joking.

He revealed that the Marconi board of directors rejected a European club's "quite serious" offer of \$750,000 for Corica just recently.

Corica could already have been in Europe — he was made a couple of other offers earlier in the year — but Arok said another season in Australia was crucial in the attacking midfielder's development.

Still three months shy of his 21st birthday, Corica needs this season in Australia to become a more complete player, according to Arok, so he could satisfy the huge expectations a million dollar transfer would create.

"To become a real star in Europe, nothing you do on the football field — no matter how great — is an accident," Arok said. "Everything you do is on purpose."

"I'm expecting Steve to make mistakes on the field this season because I want him to take on players and do damage."

"If you don't take risks on the field you do not learn anything and you will never do anything exceptional."

"Steve needs the freedom so that



STEVE CORICA

if he makes mistakes he will not lose his place in the team and be criticised by everyone.

"That's why he is staying one more season in Australia."

Just where exactly Corica will end up in Europe probably depends on the club with the most flexible cheque book.

But one country guaranteed not to see Corica in action every week is England.

"I'm an individual, a skilled player," Corica said. "I would not even think about going to England."

"It doesn't suit the way I play. Their teams play a lot of balls in the air and I'm not tall."

Corica said he would be interested in playing in the Dutch, French, German, Spanish or even Italian leagues.

"Ajax Amsterdam would be a good club to go to," Corica said. "They look after their young players."

"Graham Arnold and Frank Farina said Ajax would suit my style of play."

"They said that once you play for Ajax, you can go almost anywhere in Europe later on."

Arok said playing in England would be a giant mistake for Corica.

"Corica's biggest strengths are his speed, his very good ball control and creativeness," Arok said. "That speed with the ball is the result of beautiful balance."

"There are many other fast players, but not with the ball."

"They do not like fancy stuff in England. They just want to kick the crap out of the ball and get on with it."

"I would rather Steve goes to a country such as France, Spain, Portugal or even Italy."

"These countries love the beauty of the game."

Corica has represented Australia at every possible level — schoolboy, Joeys (Under 17), Young Socceroos (Under 23), Olympic Games (Under 20) and the Socceroos.

He was born and raised in the north-east Queensland town of Innisfail and went to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for a year at the age of 16.

After completing the scholarship, Corica was signed by Marconi where he made his NSL debut almost immediately in 1989 aged only 17.

Corica has represented the Socceroos in four 'A' internationals — twice each against South Korea and Kuwait.

He was in the Socceroo's World Cup squad this year but did not make an appearance. Many pundits believe he could have been the difference between Argentina and the Socceroos.

WHY I LEFT UNITED MIKOSIC SPEAKS OUT

BY ANTHONY RAINERI



Steve Mikosic has launched a scathing attack on Sydney United's committee in the wake of his sudden resignation as club general manager.

The high profile former GM said he resigned out of frustration at not being allowed to do his job.

"I just couldn't work with the present committee and that's basically it," Mikosic said. "Although it looked good on the surface, they made it very difficult."

"I wasn't allowed to make any decisions."

"I had to go to the committee for almost every decision."

"You can't work under those circumstances."

"I was appointed general manager of the club so I shouldn't have had to run to the committee every five minutes to get even the simplest of things done."

"I was sick and tired of the committee telling me you can't do this, you can't do that."

"The major decisions I didn't mind going to the committee. In fact, I did go to them many times."

When asked whether he directed his criticism to the entire committee, Mikosic said: "No, only about three or four (members)."

Mikosic's older brother Tony has also resigned, reducing the committee to 12 members.

"I have achieved everything I wanted to achieve, but I would have achieved a lot more if I was allowed to do my job

as general manager," Mikosic said about his six months at Sydney United.

"I wish the members of the committee the best of luck. I hope they make sure the major sponsor Red Lea Chickens is looked after."

"Red Lea have put in a lot of money. I hope they get a return."

"That's my major concern."

Mikosic, through his connections with his large poultry business, was responsible for securing the lucrative sponsorship.

"The club needed to be straightened out and I did that," he said. "I'm not saying it was all my doing but most of it was."

"My whole idea was to get the club moving and get creditability back which I think I have achieved."

Mikosic said he spent up to 16 hours a day on club matters — for no money

— leaving his business in the hands of family and friends.

"I didn't mind not being paid," he said.

However, Sydney United president Ivan Simic denied a rift existed between Mikosic and any of the committee.

"Steve is a likeable guy," Simic said. "He has done a lot of good things for the club."

"He got on well with every committee member."

Simic said that, to his knowledge, Mikosic resigned to pursue increasing business commitments.

He also said the Red Lea sponsorship was not in danger.

"Absolutely not," Simic said. "That remains as solid as ever. Red Lea are happy with the exposure they have received."

Simic added that he hoped Mikosic would rejoin the club at some stage in the future.



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ZELIC'S OLYROO DREAM

BY TED SIMMONS

SOCCEROO Ned Zelic, gutted at missing out on the 1994 World Cup finals in the US next year, is determined to hit the world stage — and playing in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games is on the cards.

Zelic, who has returned home to be with his family during the German league's winter recess, captained Australia to a fourth place finish at the Barcelona Olympics last year.

The world body FIFA had introduced an age limit of 23 for the Olympics but the rule has been modified to allow a restricted number of over-age players to take part.

"I would be eligible for Atlanta and I've proved in the past that I'm prepared to come back and play for my country when I'm needed," said Zelic.

"The national team has helped me a lot and I'd like to help them. I can't see that changing in the future."

Zelic had to miss Australia's final World Cup qualifying game against Argentina last month when he suffered a knee injury while playing for Borussia Dortmund against Frankfurt.

He has worn a brace on the left knee for seven weeks but it has now been removed. He has been given a personal training program to follow before the resumption of club training on January 10.

Zelic was disappointed about Australia's failure to get past Argentina but said the campaign was big news in Germany.

"Many of the media contacted me for opinions and I was asked to co-commentate on television.



Ned Zelic in action for his club, Borussia Dortmund.

The game was not live but I had a phone call from home where they put the receiver near the television and I heard the match direct," he said.

"What we need in the future is more games. From match to match - New Zealand to Canada to Argentina - we improved dramatically with each game.

"Preparation is the key and it's very important that the Australian Soccer Federation brings back the best players possible.

"It's encouraging to hear the ASF is looking at devising a new contract for players going overseas but it has to look at the player's interests as well.

"Before the contract is finalised, the ASF should sit down with the players and get their opinion. Clubs can get upset but they can't stop players from joining their national team."

Zelic was impressed with the number of young players showing potential and challenging for a place in the Socceroo team.

He said Steve Corica and Stan Lazaridis were leading the challenge and could replace some of the current overseas stars.

"We may not need to bring back too many from overseas but the main point is that we must pick the best side possible for major internationals," he said.



Ned Zelic: still determined to turn out for the Olyroos and Socceroos.

CARDOZO'S A SHARK

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

PABLO CARDOZO, Sydney Olympic's attacking midfielder, was last week loaned out for a fee of \$5,000 until the end of the current season to Raul Blanco's goal-hungry West Adelaide.

The highly talented Cardozo seemed harshly treated by Sydney Olympic. This season he failed to start a single league match.

The experienced CCSL player, despite turning 21 this Thursday, seemed destined to remain out of the side through no fault of his own.

Determined to win a regular spot in the first team Cardozo built himself up during the pre-season.

But despite Cardozo being offered a new contract by the club, Olympic went ahead and signed up four new attacking players during the off-season; (Kris Trajanovski, Ivan Kelic, Norman Tome and Joe Caleta).

Olympic's attacking ranks had suddenly become overcrowded. Although frustrated, Cardozo was willing to be patient and he was more than prepared to fight his way into the first 11.

But with Olympic having a good start to the season by reeling off



some precious early victories, coach Berti Mariani was reluctant to give Cardozo a chance.

Seeing that he was not going to break into the first team, Cardozo became frustrated and asked Olympic four weeks ago for a release from the club Cardozo.

That request was promptly refused by Mariani.

But the week after, despite some injuries to first team members, Cardozo was yet again overlooked for the away match against Newcastle Breakers.

Cardozo again asked for a release which was turned down for the second time.

A promising Olympic career seemed on the cards for Cardozo, who joined Olympic as a 15-year-old.

By the time Cardozo turned 17,

the highly skilful striker had gained selection in Olympic's NSL squad, thanks to Sydney Olympic staff coaches Geoff Harcombe and Mick Hickman.

But since then, Pablo has never been entrusted with a first team spot for a full season.

Last week, Blanco suddenly became interested in a new striker when he accepted the fact that he was losing goalscorer Jose Iriarte to Malaysian football.

Last Wednesday afternoon the loan-deal was set up between the two clubs.

Blanco promoted Cardozo into the first team for last Saturday night's away clash with Brisbane Strikers at Perry Park.

"I have been long time a fan of Pablo's style of football," said Blanco.

"I'm very happy to have him in our club.

"He will now have to be patient and settle in with all my other squad players which I'm sure he will do.

"Our club has provided Pablo with a new opportunity which he now must capitalise on," added Blanco.

At the end of this season, should the Sharks be happy with Cardozo, they will have the first option to buy him outright from Sydney Olympic for another \$20,000.



Pablo Cardozo, in happier times earlier this season, seen here with professional model, Rachel Rowlands, displaying Sydney Olympic's new playing strip.



FALSE START FOR PUMAS

BY GREG BLAKE IN
MELBOURNE

Melbourne Brunswick - the worst ever?

Newly promoted Melbourne Brunswick United has just completed the worst-ever start by any club in any previous CCSL campaign.

And that's official, not just an opinion on what has been an abysmal return to the CCSL for the former Australian champions.

Despite last Sunday's



Jim Kourtis: BUSC

enthralling 4-3 win over Heidelberg no club has ever fared worse in the opening third of a CCSL campaign, not even the likes of notable strugglers like Footscray, Mooroolbark, Inter Monaro or Penrith.

BUSC's record to the end of Round Nine is even worse if one includes two pre-season cup thrashings at the hands of South Melbourne.

BUSC went 0-2-9 (0-2-7 in the league), with seven goals scored (average 0.64 per game) and 35 conceded (average 3.14 per game), including hauls of six, five (three times) and four goals against.

CCSL records suggest a bottom two finish is all but inevitable for Melbourne Brunswick.

Only three clubs have escaped from bottom spot after nine rounds of the season to finish clear of the foot of the table.

The great escapes were by St George in 1979 (rising

from 14th to 11th), Newcastle KB United in 1978 (also 14th to 11th) and Preston exactly a decade later (14th to 12th).

With apologies to Melbourne Brunswick - a club which hardly needs any more gloom and doom stories at the moment - a look back at its last relegation season hardly inspires confidence.

That year (1988) the club lost only three of its first seven league games and was

well clear of the relegation zone at that stage of the season. The final word on shocking starts is a look at the worst-ever season opening by a club in CCSL history.

This, at least, makes BUSC in '93 look good.

The dubious honour falls to Sunshine George Cross, the Georgies starting the 1987 campaign with just two draws and ten defeats from the opening dozen league games.

THE WORST FIVE STARTS IN CCSL HISTORY (League games only)

RANK	TEAM	YEAR	RECORD AFTER NINE GAMES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1st	Melb.BUSC	1992/93	9 0 2 7 4	26	2					
2nd	Sun.G.Cross	1987*	9 0 2 7 11	29	2					
3rd	Mooroolbark	1977*	9 0 2 7 7	23	2					
4th	Melb.C/JUST	1985	9 1 0 8 8	21	2					
5th	Inter Monaro	1986	9 1 1 7 5	21	3					

* Both clubs had to wait until their respective seasons were thirteen games old before posting a victory, Sunshine at home against South Melbourne and Mooroolbark at home against Canberra City.

SGC didn't go down however, the Victorian club reversing its fortunes in dramatic fashion in the second half of the season by losing only two of its final 12

league games and finishing 12th in the 13-team league.

Here is ABSW's exclusive look at the all-time worst-ever starts in 17 years of CCSL history.



HOW THE BOTTOM CLUBS COMPARE AFTER THE OPENING THIRD OF THE SEASON (ie nine league games)

YEAR	TEAM	NINE GAME RECORD			FINAL RECORD			FINAL PLACE
		Won	Dr'n	Lost	Won	Dr'n	Lost	
1977	Mooroolb'k	0	2	7	5	5	16	14th of 14
1978	Newc.Utd	1	5	3	6	10	10	11th of 14
1979	St George	2	0	7	7	6	13	11th of 14
1980	St George	2	1	6	5	4	17	14th of 14
1981	West Adel.	2	1	6	5	4	21	16th of 16
1982	Canberra C.	1	3	5	7	10	13	15th of 16
1983	Bris.Lions	2	1	6	6	8	16	16th of 16
1984	Sun.G.C*	2	1	6	5	6	17	12th of 12
1985	Melb.JUST*	1	0	8	5	2	15	12th of 12
1986	I.Monaro*	1	1	7	3	5	14	12th of 12
1987	Sun.G.C	0	2	7	3	9	12	12th of 13
1988	Preston	0	5	4	5	12	9	12th of 14
1989	Heidelb'g	2	1	6	7	4	15	14th of 14
89/90	West Adel.	1	1	7	5	4	17	13th of 14
90/91	Woll.Mac.	0	4	5	3	9	14	14th of 14
91/92	West Adel.	1	3	5	7	7	12	13th of 14
92/93	Preston	1	3	5	6	4	16	13th of 14
93/94	Melb.BUSC	0	2	7	?	?	?	?

* Worst record of all teams in both divisions of then split CCSL competition.

MATIC PREDICTS NOTHING — YET

BY TOM MCKAIN
IN ADELAIDE

Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic is resigned to waiting until the night of Wednesday, January 19, before predicting his team's Top Six chances.

That's when the catch-up games caused by Socceroo commitments will be completed in Wollongong.

And even then there is a Sunday game against Brisbane, but it is at home, which is of some consolation.

"We are struggling to get into our rhythm," said Matic, as he psyched up for another postponed fixture — against West Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium tomorrow night.

"We scraped through in Newcastle, we lost in Brisbane, and being forced to rotate players



Zoran Matic: waiting

to keep some sort of balance going as far as stamina is concerned does not make things any easier.

"Until we get some normality back into our routine we will be struggling."

One of the most disappointing features of the Zebras is that, up until last Sunday's game against Morwell, veteran midfielder Joe Mullen, with three goals, was joint top scorer with Socceroo

striker Carl Veart, while Damian Mori had netted only once.

Mullen missed the Morwell game because of suspension but will be back for the derby.

This could be the derby to end all derbies, as West coach Raul Blanco, like Matic, is desperate for goals with Raymond Blair, Jimmy Tsekini, Greg Brown and Gus Cerro all threatening to score, but not finding the back of the net often enough.

Young Pablo Cardozo, signed from Olympic, may be the answer as the replacement for the badly missed Jose Iriarte, but Blanco also has to convince his players they can beat the hoodoo City seems to have over them, a win in one leg of a play-off being the only triumph in the last two seasons.

Macolino quits Marconi

BY ANTHONY
RAINERI

Talented Young Socceroo Fabio Macolino has left Marconi-Fairfield for Perth - the side which is set to play in the Singapore league next February.

Macolino, a former AIS and St George player, was expected to kick-start his Marconi career after playing for the Young Socceroo last March in the World Youth championships where the Australian's reached the last four.

Macolino, 19, has struggled to get into the Marconi first team during the last two seasons. The midfielder became frustrated at playing youth football and opted for the Perth side to revitalise his flagging career.

Frank Labbozzetta, Marconi's administration manager, confirmed that



Fabio Macolino

the deal had been signed by both clubs.

"We agreed terms last Thursday and the boy (Macolino) is happy to go," claimed Labbozzetta.

"We have not put anything in his way. Marconi will never stand in the way of a player who wants to leave the club."

Marconi coach Frank Arok, although disappointed to lose a player of Macolino's calibre, is aware that all players want first team football.

"I don't blame anyone who wants to better

themselves," said Arok.

The player himself was reluctant to talk about his transfer.

"I have nothing to say at this stage. I have a few details to clear up with Perth and the transfer is yet to be cleared by the Australian Soccer Federation," said Macolino last Friday.

Labbozzetta, when asked how much Marconi would

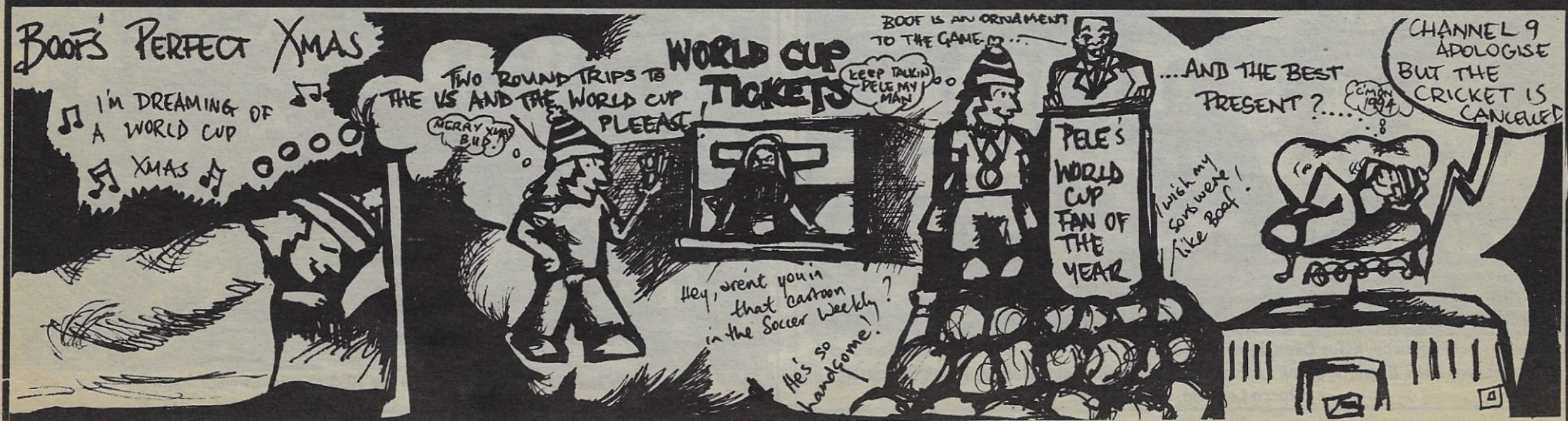


be getting for the Young Socceroo said: "No comment."



Fabio Macolino played only a small role in last season's championship side.

THE OFFSIDE WITH DARREN ALLY





PLAYER PROFILE

BY CON STAVROS

RANSFORD BANINI

Melbourne Brunswick
United

Born: 10/10/73

In an era where most Australian clubs are looking to sell players for big dollars, a major domestic signing is a rarity.

When the player bought is barely out of his teens and relatively unknown, we're talking strictly once in a blue moon material.

Ghanian youth international Ransford Banini is certainly the flavour of the month on the Australian soccer scene at present. The suggested \$50,000 transfer fee from his previous club (aptly named Goldfields) following months of negotiations, beginning with champions Marconi and ending with cellar-dwellers Brunswick, has placed enormous pressure on his shoulders to perform.

Luckily Ransford has delivered the goods on the park. He is clearly a class player.

Off the field, he is of similar demeanour.

One of five children from the Ghanian capital of Accra, Banini hopes to become the most famous sporting product from Ghana since boxing's Azumah "Zoom Zoom" Nelson.

For the record Banini's nickname is "Roger", given to him by his Brunswick team-mates in honour of Cameroon's Roger Milla.

Now living in the leafy Melbourne suburb of Kew, Banini's greatest soccer achievement remains captaining Ghana to this year's second-place finish in the World Youth Championship.

It was during that time that he fell in

love with Australia.

Banini loves the freedom of the country and the diversity of cultures.

"If everything works out I hope to stay here a long time," he says.

Banini's favourite playing position is at right back although most coaches consider him a utility.

"Back in Ghana I played in almost every position," he explains.

On the local game, Banini is clearly going to have to learn to stop being such a nice guy on the field.

"Australian soccer is very tough and you need a lot of stamina."

Although he has no strict superstitions, Banini prefers to wear the number 15 shirt in matches, despite being given the number six jersey by Brunswick.

"Once I've been here a little longer I'll ask for it," he says, "you can't ask for too much when you are a new player."

Banini is asking, however, that Puma fans remain patient and loyal.

"I hope people don't put too much pressure on the president and the committee," he says. "We are playing better with each match."

"Don't lose hope, everything will be O.K."



Ransford Banini: will he be Brunswick's salvation?

Marconi's 30 year champions

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Marconi, the League's current champions, have an undoubtedly distinguished track record of proud achievements dating back many years.

The end of the 1992/93 season saw Marconi take out the League championship.

But this week we have been able to briefly track back 30 years for some nostalgic moments as Marconi again took out the championship.

But in 1963 Marconi won the double. Having finished first on the ladder of the NSW Soccer Federation competition, Marconi finished the job by defeating Hornsby 3-2 in the

Grand Final played at Wentworth Park in front of a massive crowd of over 23,000.

Today's vice-president of the Marconi Social Club, Mr Frank Barone was the team's giant, and heroic goalkeeper on that memorable day.

When we contacted Mr Barone about Marconi's Grand Final win 30 years ago, memories flooded back instantly.

"I remember the day so well. We flew into a 2-0 lead but we dropped our guard and allowed Hornsby to level at 2-2. I suffered a deep head wound in a collision but our manager, Armando Delcaro, told me he couldn't afford to take me off. With my head heavily bandaged I played on

to finish the match.

"Then late in the game Paul Pauls crossed a beautiful ball into the box and our striker Victor Franze climbed high to smash a very powerful header into the net for the winner. The atmosphere was nothing short of magnificent and unforgettable," enthused Barone.

Another member of that proud 1963 team we were able to trace was Mr Rocco Losurdo, today a Service Station proprietor at Ashfield.

Rocco, who was Marconi's right back, reminisced about 1963: "The team spirit was always excellent."

"Frank Barone was a very strong goalkeeper, and our leader."

"Those days always provide lovely memories," said Rocco.



1963 CHAMPIONS



(back-row) Pagnucco, Klaus Okon, Hans Snabol, Paul Pauls, Frank Bertoz, Robert Santucci
(front-row) Delio Bagniol, Frank Lamacchia, D.Squidrito, Frank Barone, Frank Molinaroli, Rocco Losurdo, Gino Fofano..

1993 CHAMPIONS



The Marconi squad which won the 1993 League Championship.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

COMPILED BY STEPHEN COPPING

Some of them have absolutely no faith in the ability of our youngsters. It's a disgrace what is happening out there - Young Socceroo and assistant Socceroo coach Les Scheinflug blames the CCSL coaches for not allowing young players to come through the ranks and play in the first team.

They don't want to know the kids. They'd rather use some headkicker or has-been. These players who wouldn't make it in the Fifth Division. They just don't have the courage to give the kids a go - Scheinflug.

Look, if I don't play again at least I can say I played in a World Youth Cup and look back on it with plenty of pride - Aaron Holst, who came from nowhere to play for the Young Socceroos last March, has now retired from soccer because he could no longer afford to play the game.

They, South Melbourne, are the best team by far. They exude so much class. They are full of energy and have quality players - West Adelaide coach Raul Blanco predicts South Melbourne to win next year's championship.

The federation should be more concerned about stability, rather than looking at ways of cutting the teams - Parramatta Eagles president Sam Vella argues that the ASF should not cut one Sydney team from the CCSL next season.

If Parramatta and Sydney United were the ones to go don't think for one minute that supporters of those clubs would start to follow Sydney Olympic and Marconi-Fairfield - Sam Vella.

The full story hasn't been told. It probably never will - Former Socceroo and Millwall striker David Mitchell on what really happened between him and Australia coach Eddie Thomson before the first leg between the Socceroos and Argentina.

I have given myself five years to become one of the best goalkeepers in the world and one day I want to become virtually unbeatable - Aston Villa and Socceroo keeper Mark Bosnich.

When he gets in front of goal he is atrocious - Radio 2GB commentator Michael Cockerill on Wollongong City's midfielder Matt Horsley.

There will never be born another Pele. My mother and father closed the machine - Pele on why no one has equalled his rare talents.

God gives us two ears and only one mouth. You have to try to listen more and talk less - Pele on why Maradona has not played at his best during his 17 years in top flight football.

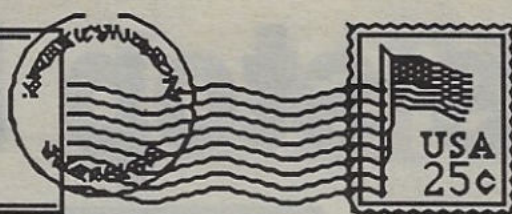
Havelange was my idol - Pele on Joao Havelange.

There are already a lot of demands on the players with international football and the European club competitions. I don't know when there is going to be time for a world club competition - German coach Berti Vogts blasts FIFA for a soccer world cup for clubs.

John Barnes' problem is that he gets injured appearing on a Question of Sport - Former South Melbourne coach Tommy Docherty.

He was getting up when he lifted something, maybe it was his wallet, and he's ricked his back - Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson on the freak accident that caused Kevin Richardson to miss his first game for the club for three years.

Letters to the Editor



Tell us what you think about soccer's big issues. Letters should ideally be a maximum of 200 words, and may be edited.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER
WEEKLY
P.O. BOX 155
Marrickville,
NSW 2204

BBB HIT THE HEADLINES

There has been a prevailing attitude over the years that sport and politics do not mix. In a sense this might be true and, in fact, desirable. In reality though sport in its various arenas is played against a political and social backdrop. Such is certainly the case with football (soccer), its very history in Australia being inextricably linked to the growth of ethnic communities in the post-war period.

Despite this history it has long been argued that soccer needs to be 'de-ethnicised', formal recognition being given to this 'conventional wisdom' with the release of the Bradley Report. A few years down the track, the 'de-ethnicising' of club names has occurred more quickly than initially envisaged by Dr Bradley.

This, however, has not been without a cost. Many supporters of clubs forced to change their names have felt greatly insulted and my research would indicate that some have turned their backs on football altogether. Another reaction has been to engage in more vociferous displays of ethnic identity, the BBB of Sydney United being the most obvious manifestation in this regard. The BBB are certainly controversial but, most importantly, they represent a very radical voice in opposition to a trend ultimately aimed at severing the links between football and ethnic identity. Is the football park a suitable arena for a celebration of ethnicity? The BBB would most certainly answer in the affirmative.

For its part, the ABSW is to be congratulated for opening its pages to letters on the ethnicity question. Whether one is condoning or condemning of a group such as the BBB, discussion is healthy.

Let the debate go on.

John Hughson
University of Western
Sydney, Nepean

BBB — BAD COVERAGE

I am writing to criticise the coverage of the Bad Blue Boys on national radio (ie ABC Radio; Life Matters 9:05 Dec 6, 93). The BBB came across as a different BBB from what I know them as. Rather than being young gentlemen, they are nothing more than a bunch of louts. Their behaviour is racist, and an insult to the remainder of us fans. They typify the average European soccer thug, for which there is no place in Australian soccer circles. As for this academic, John Hughson, he is nothing more than a puppet who has played into

the hands of the BBB. I am critical of the purpose of a study on the Bad Blue Boys. Who wants to know about them anyway?

There is no room for the Bad Blue Boys and groups of this nature in the CCSL, and I challenge the ASF to comment on this. If the BBB are representative of Australian multiculturalism than I am all for Dr. G Bradley and his beloved report.

An Angry Australian
(name withheld at
writer's request)

ASF MUST ACT NOW

I was born here, and since I was a very small boy at Gladesville Sportsground, pre-NSW Federation days, I have followed 'First Division' and our national football teams. I played as an amateur for 29 years. Because of that love for the game, the future of domestic football concerns me, and I

- clubs from Australia (cup and CCSL winners), NZ, Malaysia, Japan, Korea (expanded later) to give a wider club dimension like Europe and South America.

It's easy to conjecture, but come on ASF - get moving before you get left behind!

Chris Dunkerley,
Sydney

PLAYING TO WIN

If a person stops and compares the various sporting codes that soccer is up against in Australia, there are a few distinct similarities. Rugby league and Australian rules are the most popular football codes in Australia.

Both games are rugged, fairly high scoring and are marketed very well.

Basketball and baseball are high scoring, well marketed and have American imported stars. The quality of these two sports is poor. The teams are largely made up of a few locals and Third and Fourth

The fact that the other sports mentioned above are high scoring sports.

The general public wants results in their respective sports. This is also a major marketing point. The average Aussie does not want to spend his or her summer sitting in poor "stadiums" watching players run around for 90 minutes with no result. Rugby league, Australian rules, cricket, basketball and baseball do by the end of their play, gain some sort of a result. Usually it is a win or a loss, however, sometimes the games are drawn.

The drawn games, however, are perceived as exciting, largely due to the fact that it was a high scoring draw, and drawn results are unusual occurrences in these codes of sport. Nil-all draws are also unheard of in these sports.

Therefore in order to attract the paying customer, our game should cater for them by settling draws. How exciting would it be to have

Soccer always requires improving and this system would be a step in the right direction.

What do you think?

Ante Grabovac,
NSW

DREAMING

In the ABSW 6.12.93 issue, the article entitled "Australia in brief" stated: "The establishment of a national development programme, to ensure the continuation of large numbers of elite players at the grass roots level..."

It is wonderful news! I hope "...the national development..." - professionally or/and part-time- will be extended beyond Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. And finally will we have — in the States' soccer competitions — 20-22 teams in a First Division?

And will we read, in the dailies, next to the English and Italian results, about matches played between, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, or Orange-Yass or am I only dreaming?

R Marton
St Marys 2760

LET'S FOLLOW THE "J" LEAGUE

The "J" League has certainly had a dramatic effect on the popularity of soccer in Japan. As recently as Italia '90, Japanese TV did not even bother to give a decent coverage of the World Cup because of a lack of interest.

Three years later in its first season, the "J" League has swept all before it to become Japan's most popular sports competition, generating a turnover of one billion dollars.

People are coming from all over the world to study this phenomenon.

As I understand it right from day one, uppermost in the mind of the people who conceived the "J" League was the need to offer a competition where entertainment and excitement were paramount, hence the outlawing of drawn matches with the introduction of extra time and shootouts. They judged correctly that exciting and entertaining soccer can more than make up for a lack of high standard football.

Here in Australia the CCSL is once again in crisis with no easy answers to the problem. The success of the "J" League may not be transferrable to the Australian scene but the emphasis on making soccer more of an entertainment event than a game is something that is very necessary for the CCSL, if there is going to be any sustained interest in the game.

(name withheld at
writer's request)



Damian Mori: an important part of Adelaide City's 1993-4 campaign.

believe the rot that set in during the early '80s with the NSL is still bringing us down. It is vital to move ahead or be left behind - by basketball, or baseball. Well what about:

A. A truly National League - keep 14 teams but 'franchised' from - (max) 3 teams from Sydney, 2 provincial NSW (now Wollongong and Newcastle), 1 ACT, (max), 3 Melbourne, 1 provincial Victoria (now Morwell), (max) 2 S.A. (max), 2 Qld (say 1 Brisbane, 1 North Queensland), 1 W.A.

B. A proper State of Origin Series - say two seeded groups to give a 'poor man's' European Cup.

C. National Cup - with all State League and Youth League sides entering, to be later matched against National League clubs (like the FA Cup) - between State and CCSL seasons.

D. A sponsored Club Asian/Pacific Championship

Division players from the American leagues. The coaches are also largely imported.

However, due to the Australian media being fascinated with all things American, the fans are attending the games in large numbers, particularly in basketball's case.

Cricket is really the only sport that soccer must compete with in Australia during the summer months, until baseball gains a much larger profile. Test cricket in Australia is already dying, as proved by television ratings and attendances. The one day version, however, is a huge attraction. This game is again high scoring and very marketable.

Soccer amongst these is the only truly international sport. However, exciting as it may be, the game is largely low scoring and poorly marketed in this country.

a semi-final every week?

If games are drawn by the end of 90 minutes then extra time prevails. Whoever scores first in 15 minutes each way of extra time is the winner. If no-one does and the result is still drawn then a penalty situation should occur.

This is not a new concept. It is successfully being used in Japan and a few other nations where the psychology is that the customer wants a result.

To entice teams not to get to the penalty stage, four points should be given for a win, one point for a penalty win and no points for any form of a loss.

Forcing a result will no doubt create more attacking football and fill up those empty terrace seats. More excitement will be generated by the games and they will be of more value for money for the paying customers.



Brave Knights stop Blues, stay top



ROUND 10 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 By Greg Blake at Croatian Sports Centre



Melbourne Knights' skipper Jo Biskic lay writhing in pain on the touchline late on Sunday evening at Somers Street, but his hamstring injury was of secondary importance to the closing seconds of his team's epic against high riding South Melbourne.

As painful as the injury might prove to be, Biskic was in feel-no-pain territory seconds later as the final whistle blew on the Knights' first win since 1989 over its fiercest rival.

The Knights' 2-1 victory was born of courage, determination, grit and spirit on a day when it missed three senior players through injury and suspension and was facing off against the League's current high rollers.

But the Blues never

recovered from an explosive Knights' goal inside the opening 60 seconds as a corner from Zoran Trajceviski was met by a charging Mark Viduka who bent low to crash a header home after just 54 seconds of action.

The opening strike by Viduka - who spent the day running the pants off Aussie skipper Paul Wade - was the opening salvo in a sensational first 15 minutes that the huge festive crowd of near 10,000 will not soon forget.

The Blues levelled 13 minutes in as referee John Santa Isabel ruled Knights' defender Andrew Marth had dropped Angie Goutzioulis with an elbow in the penalty area and Con Boutsianis wrong-footed goalkeeper David Miller to

level the scores.

In a frenetic couple of minutes on either side of the penalty both Miller and team-mate Mark Talajic were booked and Boutsianis was felled behind play by a missile tossed from the crowd.

In what turned out to be a cut-and-thrust battle between the masters of finesse and a new Melbourne top dog intent on shutting out the menace, the Knights' game plan had the winning edge.

The home side produced the clearer chances and took the critical lead just eight minutes after the restart with what was a deserved if fortunate goal carved by Biskic, whose contribution is certain to be missed in the ensuing rounds if his hamstring injury proves as serious as first reports would suggest.

Biskic floated a free kick to where Marth was storming goalward and the deflection off Marth's leg knocked against the far post and rolled over the line for the go-ahead score.

The Blues, with its midfield winners shut out, always looked poised for an equaliser without really threatening.

The closest South Melbourne came was a shot from Paul Trimboli which was deflected off the line by Miller with 20 minutes left on the clock.

Knights' livewire Fausto De Amicis was unreserved in his delight after the game.

"It was the best game I have ever played in," De Amicis enthused.

"I have never known such atmosphere in a game."

Defender Marth was only relieved at having downed the Knights' arch nemesis of recent seasons.

"It was about time because we haven't beaten South Melbourne for a while," said Marth.

"We were really looking forward to it and although we lost four good players (before the game) we managed to fill the gaps well."

MELBOURNE

KNIGHTS: Miller, Buljebasic, De Amicis, Talajic, Vanis, Marth, Trajceviski, Biskic (off 89 not replaced), Cervinski, Viduka, Markovski (Razov 77).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Anastasidis, Muscat, Hasler, Durakovic, Polak, Wade, Tasios, Trimboli,



Fausto De Amicis: unreserved in his delight.

Boutsianis, Awaritefe (Tsolakis 60), Goutzioulis. **SCORERS:** Viduka 1m, Marth 53m for Melbourne Knights. Boutsianis 14m

pen for South Melbourne. **YELLOW CARDS:** Miller 13m, Talajic 14m for Knights. Wade 52m, Awaritefe 56m, Durakovic

88m for South Melbourne. **REFEREE:** J Santa Isabel. **CROWD:** 9,000. **POY:** Viduka 3, Goutzioulis 2, De Amicis 1.

DEFERRED ROUND 6

WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER, 1993
Wed Adelaide City v West Adelaide 7.30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium

ROUND 12

W/ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 DECEMBER, 1993
Wed Adelaide City v Sydney United 7.30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium
Wed Heidelberg United v Morwell Falcons 6.00pm
Olympic Village
Wed Marconi Fairfield v Parramatta Eagles 7.30pm
Marconi Stadium
Wed Sydney Olympic v South Melbourne 7.30pm
Leichhardt Oval
Wed Melbourne Knights v Newcastle BHP 6.00pm
Melb Croatian Spots Centre
Wed Brisbane Strikers v Melbourne BUSC 7.00pm
Perry Park
Wed Wollongong City v West Adelaide 7.30pm
Brandon Park

PARRAMATTA CITY SOCCER CLUB

DIVISION 2 FEDERATION

TRIALS

at Eric Primrose Reserve
cnr John & Primrose Sts. Rydelmere
1st & 2nd Grade Mens
Mondays & Thursdays 7pm

YOUTH LEAGUE

U/16's Tuesdays 6:30pm
U/13's, U/14's Wednesdays 6:30pm

SENIOR COACHES

Peter Papnikitas - 546-4328
George Georgiou - 018 202-787(w)
Stan (Youth) - 868-4972(h)

CCSL LINE-UPS LEADING SCORERS & TABLE

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Van Egmond (Harris 71), Jolevski, Bingley, Gray, de Marigny (Talay 14), Pelucchi, Kuleski, Corica, Taladoros, Johnson.
NEWCASTLE: Gosling, Owens, Maier, Jones, Tredinnick, Jennings (Meredith 65), Lowe (Naumov 46), Halpin, McQuarrie, Brown, Spink.
SCORERS: Johnson 8th, 34th and 57th minutes. Brown 86th minute.
YELLOW CARDS: Jones 42, Tredinnick 66 and Brown 87 for Newcastle.
REFEREE: John Fraser.
CROWD: 2890.
POY: 3 - Johnson, 2 - Corica, 1 - Spink.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Bolton, Pimblett, Hunter, Jackson, Hillier, Phillips, Stowell, Wright (Slater 88m), T Cranney, Williams, Meacock (S Cranney 84m).
WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Keramidas (Brown 58m), Lazaridis, Mills (Haniotis 84m), Hooker, Kokkinopolitis, Brazzale, Cerro, Slikas, Brown, Cordozo.
YELLOW CARDS: Williams (25m), Hunter (48m) for Brisbane. Cerro (74m).
SCORERS: Meacock, Hunter for Brisbane. Hooker for West Adelaide.
CROWD: 2,002.
REFEREE: Peter Spiers.
POY POINTS: 3 - Jackson, 2 - Lazaridis, 1 - Hunter.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Reda (Hassell 68), Maxwell (Talladira 80m), Lozanovski, Melta.
MORWELL FALCONS: Mautone, Canosa, Parton, Donnelly, Krays

(Djordjevic ht), Cassar, Douglas, Bothwell, Markovski (Armstrong 89), Stergiopoulos, Sevin.
SCORERS: Lozanovski 23m for Adelaide City. Parton 62m for Morwell Falcons.
YELLOW CARDS: Ivanovic 57m for Adelaide City. Bothwell 32m for Morwell Falcons.
REFEREE: J Papanicolas.
CROWD: 3,163.
POY: Tobin 3, Douglas 2, Lozanovski 1.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: Miller, Buljebasic, De Amicis, Talajic, Vanis, Marth, Trajceviski, Biskic (off 89 not replaced), Cervinski, Viduka, Markovski (Razov 77).
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Anastasidis, Muscat, Hasler, Durakovic, Polak, Wade, Tasios, Trimboli, Boutsianis, Awaritefe (Tsolakis 60), Goutzioulis.
SCORERS: Viduka 1m, Marth 53m for Melbourne Knights. Boutsianis 14m pen for South Melbourne.
YELLOW CARDS: Miller 13m, Talajic 14m for Knights. Wade 52m, Awaritefe 56m, Durakovic 88m for South Melbourne.
REFEREE: J Santa Isabel.
CROWD: 9,000.
POY: Viduka 3, Goutzioulis 2, De Amicis 1.

HEIDELBERG UTD: Chatzizitiranos, Brattan, Tiktikakis, Selemidis, Scott, Watson, MacNicol, Negic (Tsoumerakas 73), Gnjidic (Vlahos 61), Michalakopoulos, Obradovic.
BRUNSWICK PUMAS: Kourtis, Kuzmanovic, Ferla, Banini, Cahut, Becvinovski, Zinni, Emmanuele, Karkaletsis, Mazzini, Retre (Minichiello ht).

SCORERS: Obradovic 36m, 77m, Scott 86m for Heidelberg. Karkaletsis 42m pen, Zinni 61m, Emmanuele 65m, 83m for Brunswick.
YELLOW CARDS: Mazzini 44m for Brunswick.
REFEREE: C Naumcevski.
CROWD: 2,200.
POY: Emmanuele 3, Banini 2, Obradovic 1.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: P Gunning, Falzon, Gwynne, Gomez, Koch, Orlic, Moffit, Mendez, Soper, Spiteri, G Gunning.
SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Stanton, Kupresak, Popovic, Babic (Milicevic 16), Krslovic, Hristodoulou (Milicic 67), Gibson, Zdrilic, Moric, Lamond.
SCORERS: Nil.
YELLOW CARDS: Moric 27m, Kupresak and Gibson 55m, Krslovic 60m, Kalac 81m for Sydney United. Soper 33m, Gomez 55m for Parramatta Eagles.
REFEREE: R Davies.
CROWD: 4,386.
POY: Orlic 3, Spiteri 2, Krslovic 1.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gibson, Barrett, Sorras, Ironside, Augerinos, Tsekenis, Milosevic (Kelic 71), Petratos, Caleta, Trajanovski, Tome (Mendez 88).
WOLLONGONG CITY: Hughes, McFadden, Lloyd, O'Shea, Yankos, Bourke, Horsley, Ricoy (Grbevski 85), Freestone (Dimoski 46), Ollerenshaw, White.
SCORERS: Milosevic 30m pen, Barrett 77m, Caleta 88m for Sydney Olympic. Demoski 63m for Wollongong City.
YELLOW CARDS: O'Shea 20m, Bourke 28m, Hughes 30m, Hors-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb. Knights	10	7	1	2	21	9	22
Marconi Fairfield	10	6	2	2	20	11	20
Sydney United	10	5	3	2	12	11	18
Sydney Olympic	10	5	2	3	19	15	17
South Melbourne	8	5	1	2	18	5	16
Parramatta Eagles	9	3	4	2	9	6	13
Morwell Falcons	9	3	4	2	8	5	13
Brisbane Strikers	10	3	3	4	12	11	12
Newcastle BHP	10	3	2	5	12	20	11
West Adelaide	9	3	1	5	11	10	10
Adelaide City	8	2	3	3	14	12	9
Wollongong City	9	2	3	4	11	15	9
Heidelberg Utd	10	1	3	6	8	23	6
Melbourne BUSC	10	1	2	7	8	29	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6	Con Boutsianis.....(South Melbourne)
6	Warren Spink.....(Newcastle BHP)
5	Joe Caleta.....(Sydney Olympic)
5	Manis Lamond.....(Sydney United)
5	Kevin Meacock.....(Brisbane Strikers)
5	Oliver Pondeljak.....(Melbourne Knights)
5	Steve Tasios.....(South Melbourne)
4	Raymond Blair.....(West Adelaide)
4	Rodney Brown.....(Newcastle BHP)
4	Andrew Harper.....(Marconi Fairfield)
4	Branko Milosevic.....(Sydney Olympic)
4	Nemanja Obradovic.....(Heidelberg United)
4	Scott Ollerenshaw.....(Wollongong City)
4	Marshall Soper.....(Parramatta Eagles)
4	Mark Viduka.....(Melbourne Knights)

ley 51m, for Wollongong City.
RED CARDS: Nil
REFEREE: G Dunster.

CROWD: 4,276.
POY: Tome 3, Trajanovski 2, O'Shea 1.



Johnson dumps Breakers

Glenn Johnson, Marconi-Fairfield's mobile striker rattled in a spectacular hat-trick to send Newcastle Breakers crashing to a 3-1 defeat - their fourth in a row.

This was Johnson's first full game for Marconi after a long layoff with injuries. Johnson last week made his comeback as a substitute against Melbourne BUSC, but he grabbed the chance when regular striker Andy Harper was forced out of the game because of a knee injury.

Johnson's barrage of goals stretched Newcastle's net in the 8th, 34th, and 57th minutes leaving the Novocastrians reeling.

Newcastle's twin strikers Rod Brown and Warren Spink were starved throughout the game of quality supply by Marconi's busy midfield of Gary van Egmond, Ermanno Pelucchi, and Steve Corica which continually regained possession.

Marconi's score could

ROUND 10 MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 3 NEWCASTLE BHP 1 By John Economos at Marconi Stadium



easily have been larger had it not been for the continued streak of bad luck of striker Kimon Taliadoros whose overhead kick in the second minute scraped the crossbar, his header from just three metres doing the same 25 minutes later.

Johnson drew first blood when raiding down the left flank, he swerved past

centre back Neil Owens to lob 'keeper Clint Gosling and score off the far post.

Jean Paul de Marigny, playing in an attacking midfield role on the left side instead of his orthodox sweeper position, limped off the pitch with a pulled hamstring injury to his right leg in only the 14th minute.

Eleven minutes before the break, Johnson nailed the best goal of the match when Breaker's John McQuarrie lost possession deep in Marconi's half.

Gifted defender Matthew Bingley pounced on the ball and ran 60 metres through the middle before releasing a flat through ball which split Newcastle's



twin stoppers.

Running in from the right Johnson read play well to blast Marconi 2-0 in the lead.

McQuarrie tried to make amends four minutes later. Busting up the right flank, McQuarrie whipped in a perfect cross for Spink, but the former Socceroo's shot was slapped down by Mark Schwarzer.

Newcastle's midfield trio of David Lowe, Troy Halpin and McQuarrie were broken down by Marconi's powerful sharpness and sustained dominance.

In the 57th minute Johnson rolled the scoreboard a third time when he met a lethal cross on the left by Taliadoros to



Johnson: hat-trick man.

glance the ball into the back of the net with his header.

With a 3-0 lead Marconi coach Frank Arok released Rockhampton rocket and teenage striker Jeremy

Harris to make his debut in the CCSL 19 minutes from the end.

In the 86th minute Newcastle's Bobby Naumov crossed for Brown, who met his cross perfectly from seven metres.

Newcastle's tale of woes continued due to three basic factors.

One, they don't have a playmaker, two they lose possession far too easily and three, they have rapidly lost confidence.

Socceroo Steve Corica tore Newcastle apart with his pace.

Newcastle's coach Jim Foley said: "Despite the loss I felt it was a brave effort."

"We have suffered four defeats in a row, which is affecting morale and confidence.

"We didn't get much luck out there regarding some important decisions - the second goal looked offside to me," said Foley.

Johnson, Talay, Corica and Taliadoros were the best for the champions while Newcastle's Spink and Brown never stopped searching for any balls that did occasionally come from the midfield.

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Van Egmond (Harris 71), Jolevski, Bingley, Gray, de Marigny (Talay 14), Pelucchi, Kuleski, Corica, Taliadoros, Johnson.

NEWCASTLE: Gosling, Owens, Maier, Jones, Tredinnick, Jennings (Meredith 65), Lowe (Naumov 46), Halpin, McQuarrie, Brown, Spink.

SCORERS: Johnson, 8th, 34th and 57th minutes. Brown 86th minute.

YELLOW CARDS: Jones

42, Tredinnick 66 and Brown 87 for Newcastle.

REFEREE: John Fraser.

CROWD: 2890

POY: 3 - Johnson, 2-

Corica, 1 - Spink.

Joy for the Pumas - at last



ROUND 10 HEIDELBERG UNITED 3 MELBOURNE BUSC 4 By Con Stavros at Olympic Village

Brunswick's long wait for a victory has finally ended, following their remarkable 4-3 defeat of Heidelberg at the Olympic Village last Sunday.

The battle between the worst team and the next to worst team in the CCSL promised little, but delivered a bagful of goals and considerable end-to-end action.

Brunswick doubled their season's goal tally with the victory and proved that despite a leaky defence, there is some hope for their long suffering fans.

The Pumas came from behind to win the match, after Heidelberg dominated the opening half, taking the lead in the 36th minute.

Midfielder Nemanja Obradovic was on the end of a number of chances before tapping home after Danny Gnjudic's surprising overhead strike caught the Brunswick defence napping as it rebounded back into play.

The Pumas' resurgence came courtesy of new skipper Ransford Banini's shift from the sweeper's position to midfield.

The 20-year-old Ghanian teamed up with Seb Emmanuele to take control

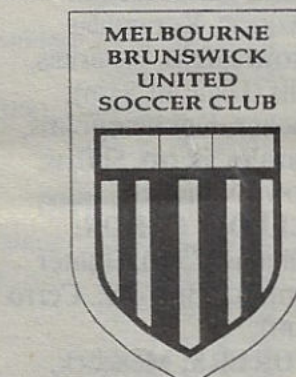


Heidelberg's Brian MacNicol

of the midfield and put the Pumas back into the match.

Emmanuele created the

equaliser just before half-time after being brought down in the penalty area



by Theo Selemidis. George Karkaletsis converted the spot-kick.

Banini and Emmanuele continued their exquisite form in the second half as the two teams turned the match into a goal feast.

Brunswick moved into the lead and gave themselves a wonderful boost of confidence in the 61st minute as Andrew Zinni tapped home from close range, following a build-up from Emmanuele down the left.

Emmanuele then extended the Pumas' lead to 3-1 four minutes later, after stealing the ball from Selemidis and rounding the 'keeper.

Heidelberg's Obradovic netted his second goal in the 77th minute, to throw Heidelberg a lifeline, but Emmanuele capped off his man-o-f-the-match performance with another superb solo effort in the 83rd minute to make it 4-2.

Alan Scott put Heidelberg within touch with a long range goal in the 86th minute, but it was too late for the Bergers as Brunswick rejoiced in its first victory in 10 games.

The goal feast was even

more remarkable considering both teams had only scored nine goals between them all season, but was perhaps indicative of the shaky defences at both clubs.

Jubilant Pumas' coach John Margaritis refused to get carried away with the first win. "It was good to get a victory, but we still had some problems with our defence," he said.

His Heidelberg counterpart, Drago Sekularac, was even more direct about his team's defensive lapses. "We scored six goals today," he said. "Three for us and three for them."

HEIDELBERG UTD: Chatzitrifonos, Brattan, Tiktikakis, Selemidis, Scott, Watson, MacNicol, Negic (Tsoumerakas 73), Gnjudic (Vlahos 61), Michalakopoulos, Obradovic.

BRUNSWICK PUMAS: Kourtis, Kuzmanovic, Ferla, Banini, Cahut, Becvinovski, Zinni, Emmanuele, Karkaletsis, Mazzini, Retre (Minichiello ht).

SCORERS: Obradovic 36m, 77m, Scott 86m for Heidelberg, Karkaletsis 42m pen, Zinni 61m, Emmanuele 65m, 83m for Brunswick.

YELLOW CARDS: Mazzini 44m for Brunswick.

REFEREE: C Naumcevski.

CROWD: 2,200.

POY: Emmanuele 3, Banini 2, Obradovic 1.



Brunswick 'keeper Jim Kourtis.

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Winning Strikers don't please Stowell



ROUND 10 BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 WEST ADELAIDE 1 By Glenn Davis at Perry Park



Brisbane Strikers held on grimly to grab its second South Australian scalp within four days with a hard-fought 2-1 win over West Adelaide at Perry Park last Saturday night.

Brisbane, who downed the Soccerroo-studded Adelaide City 2-1 midweek, looked set for a comfortable victory following first half goals from striker Kevin Meacock and defender Alan Hunter.

However, in stark contrast to its first half performance, the pendulum swung in the second half with West Adelaide clearly dominating and unlucky to have only Robbie Hooker's name on the scoresheet.

The second half performance from Brisbane didn't go unnoticed by coach Bruce Stowell who gave his players a dressing down after the match.

"Our first half performance was overshadowed in the second half by a totally unprofessional performance," Stowell said.

"It was the worst second half I've seen from any side of mine."

"We weren't lucky in the end because our chances balanced theirs."

Brisbane has now leapfrogged several places up the ladder and are well within sight of threatening for a finals place at the end of the season despite its habit of producing Jekyll and Hyde performances.

It's the first time Brisbane has put two consecutive wins together since the concept of a combined Brisbane side was introduced into the CCSL three seasons ago.

The positives coming out of Brisbane's recent matches still far outweigh the negatives, particularly the side's sudden ability to find the back of the net.

Much of this can be directly attributed to forward Kevin Meacock who has scored five times from only five appearances after his CCSL appearance this year was delayed by injury.

Meacock, fresh from his double against Adelaide City, got Brisbane off to a dream start after only five minutes when he latched onto a Frank Pimblett cross, driving his header past 'keeper Peter Blazincic.

Brisbane had a let-off five minutes later when Hooker curled a free kick over the top of a Brisbane defensive wall only to see 'keeper Clint Bolton pull off a miraculous save.

The home side went to a two-goal lead in the 30th minute when veteran defender Alan Hunter, playing some of the best football of his career, rose high above two defenders, to head home a corner from the right by Garry Phillips.

With only three minutes left before the break, Danny Wright for Brisbane blasted a shot over the top from the edge of the box which would have sewn up the match by the interval.

Whatever coach Raul Blanco said at half-time paid off as the visitors took charge of the match after the break through an inspired performance from Soccerroo Stan Lazaridis with his blistering speed out wide.

West Adelaide, with nothing to lose and sensing a tiring Brisbane outfit, threw everything in attack but were thwarted by some brave defence and at times a touch of bad luck.

The visitors were finally rewarded in the 70th minute from a dead ball situation when Hooker watched his 25 metre free kick deflect off a Brisbane defensive wall into the net.

West Adelaide striker Greg Brown missed a left foot sitter for the equaliser with only 'keeper Bolton

to beat two minutes before the end of normal time following a flick-on by new signing Pablo Cordozo.

Stowell wanted to make changes much earlier than he did but was forced into delaying his replacements until near the death as several of his Brisbane players were walking wounded.

Sydney referee Peter Spiers infuriated the crowd by playing seven minutes of injury time and then disallowing an appeal for a Brisbane penalty late in the game.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Bolton, Pimblett, Hunter, Jackson, Hillier, Phillips, Stowell, Wright (Slater 88m), T Cranney, Williams, Meacock (S Cranney 84m).

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Keramidis (Brown 58m), Lazaridis, Mills (Haniotis 84m), Hooker, Kokkinopolitis, Brazalle, Cerro, Slifkas, Brown, Cordozo.

YELLOW CARDS: Williams (25m), Hunter (48m) for Brisbane. Cerro (74m).

SCORERS: Meacock, Hunter for Brisbane. Hooker for West Adelaide.

CROWD: 2,002.
REFEREE: Peter Spiers.
POY: 3 — Jackson, 2 — Lazaridis, 1 — Hunter.



Gustavo Cerro: could not claw back Brisbane's two-goal lead.

Ugly soccer wins no fans



Gabriel Mendez: provided glimpses of style amidst the spite and incompetence



Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club

At a time when Australian soccer needs all the help it can get, it was kicked in the teeth by a joyless, goalless draw, notable only for spite and incompetence.

4,386 people turned up at Melita Stadium to watch a game in which brazen thuggery and poor officiating blotted out the few glimpses of attractive football on offer.

Only those feeling nostalgic for the rugby season would have gone away satisfied with a match that featured more flying boots and elbows than an All Black ruck.

The dressing rooms dripped with blood instead of liniment after the game, with the worst injury probably being John Gibson's gaping head

ROUND 10 PARRAMATTA EAGLES 0 SYDNEY UNITED 0 By Alfred Hiatt at Melita Stadium

wound which followed an off the ball clash with Gerry Gomez.

That was just one of many nasty clashes in a replay of the League Cup final in which no-one, least of all soccer, came off a winner.

Referee Rob Davies, who was jeered by supporters and mocked by the players, must shoulder much of the blame for patently losing control of the game midway through the first half.

Davies took inconsistency to new lows, stopping play to give fouls for nothing, while letting malicious challenges go unchecked.

Rale Rasic cited a

possible \$5,000 fine as the reason for not commenting publicly on the referee's performance.

He said: "I can't find it in me to say anything positive about that game."

United coach Manfred Schaefer commented: "We deserved the yellow cards our players got (for retaliation)."

"It was a typical toe-to-toe game. We should have led 3-0 after 15 minutes but we didn't finish well."

"It was their home game but we tried to win it with Krslovic, Lamond, and Zdrilic all attacking."

Certainly United made a bright opening but after that football only occasionally interrupted

the constant whistle blowing. When genuine play resumed in the 65th minute, chances fell at both ends, and the Eagles' fans thought their team had clinched the game when Joe Spiteri found the back of the net in injury time.

But Gomez was ruled to have been offside, leaving the last word, appropriately, with the officials.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: P Gunning, Falzon, Gwynne, Gomez, Koch, Orlic, Moffit, Mendez, Soper, Spiteri, G Gunning.

SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Stanton, Kupresak, Popovic, Babic (Milicevic 16), Krslovic, Hristodoulou (Milicic 67), Gibson, Zdrilic, Moric, Lamond.

YELLOW CARDS: Moric 27m, Kupresak and Gibson 55m, Krslovic 60m, Kalac 81m for Sydney United. Soper 33m, Gomez 55m for Parramatta Eagles.

REFEREE: R Davies.

CROWD: 4,386.

POY: Orlic 3, Spiteri 2, Krslovic 1.



Mautone the hero for Falcons



ROUND 10
ADELAIDE CITY 1
MORWELL FALCONS 1
 By Tom McKain
 at Hindmarsh Stadium



Morwell can thank goalkeeper Stephen Mautone for a vital point from the 1-1 draw with Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium - and they can also thank home goalkeeper Robert Zabica.

After City had taken the lead in the 23rd minute through Goran Lozanovski following a one-two with Carl Veart it looked only a matter of time until Zoran Matic's side put the game in their pocket.

However, disaster struck the Zebras in the 62nd minute when a corner from Morwell's Yugoslav import Alexander Djordjevic fell to Zabica who let the ball slip through his hands and onto the feet of big Falcons' defender Shaun Parton who had no trouble in slotting it home from close range.

After that goal it was again all City but Mautone rose to the challenge and defied the efforts of City

substitute Bradley Hassell, whose header was saved by the 'keeper following a Paul Shillabeer cross.

Mautone was again in action to defy Mori who hit the volley on the turn and then it was Lozanovski who was frustrated by the gallant goalie.

City are now in real danger of not making the Top Six. The draw moved them up to 11th place, one point behind local rivals West Adelaide whom they meet tomorrow night in a catch-up fixture.

Morwell coach Bobby McLachlan had City on the ropes in the opening stanza as the Zebras had expected him to come looking for a draw.

Instead the homeside had to back pedal as John Markovski, Brian Bothwell and Sonny Sevin stormed forward prompted by Stephen Douglas and Paul Donnelly.

When City regrouped

they certainly took command but Veart was closely marked by former West Adelaide South American import Claudio Canosa while at the other end of the field Markovski had a sterling battle with Shillabeer.

But to Veart's credit he did manage to shake off Canosa to be involved in what was to prove a vital face-saving home goal.

It now looks certain that Hassell, who was sent on as a substitute for Michael Reda in the 68th minute, will start against Wests in the derby match.

Apart from almost scoring himself he laid on a couple of chances, one of which was deflected for a corner when Alex Tobin got on the end of his lob across the goal.

City certainly showed they had taken coach Zoran Matic's lectures to heart regarding holding on to the ball too long.

However, in one instance in the second half Veart looked through on his own but instead of carrying on decided to cross the ball low and as Mori waited for it, it was cleared by Parton.

Morwell have now proved that they are not just a rugged bunch of battlers and while they have scored only eight goals they also have the best defensive record in the League and on their performance against the Zebras they can attack when the mood takes them.

Ivanovic's booking could mean he will miss the derby encounter depending on how many points the referee put against his name.

ADELAIDE CITY:
 Zabica, Shillabeer, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Reda (Hassell 68), Maxwell (Talladira 80m), Lozanovski, Melta.
MORWELL FALCONS:



Lachlan Armstrong: a late substitute for Markovski.

Mautone, Canosa, Parton, Donnelly, Krus (Djordjevic ht), Cassar, Douglas, Bothwell, Markovski (Armstrong 89), Stergiopoulos, Sevin.

SCORERS: Lozanovski 23m for Adelaide City. Parton 62m for Morwell Falcons.
YELLOW CARDS: Ivanovic 57m for Adelaide

City. Bothwell 32m for Morwell Falcons.
REFEREE: J Papanicolas.
CROWD: 3,163.
POY: Tobin 3, Douglas 2, Lozanovski 1.



Late burst sinks Wolves



ROUND 10
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
WOLLONGONG CITY 1
 By John Economos
 at Leichhardt Oval

Sydney Olympic had to overcome a vastly improved and tenacious Wollongong City before running out victors 3-1 last Sunday night at Leichhardt Oval.

Holding a slender 1-0 lead at the break Olympic did not cement their victory till the last 13 minutes through sensational goals from right back Dave Barrett and left midfielder Joe Caleta.

Marking much tighter and playing with more confidence than in the last two weeks, Wollongong seemed to be able to choke all of Olympic's attacks.

Wollongong City coach David Ratcliffe fielded a completely reorganised defence with Paul McFadden on the right, Martin Bourke on the left with twin stoppers Richard Lloyd and Mike O'Shea plus free back Charlie Yankos.

Pedro Ricoy was at central midfield flanked by Matt Horsley and Shaun Freestone. Despite this new-look formation Olympic almost scored as early as the first minute when durable striker Kris Trajanovski put through teenage striker Norman Tome for a snapshot at goal. But the

youngster's lifting drive narrowly missed the top right angle. Then disaster struck the Wolves.

Right on the half hour mark Olympic's international midfielder Peter Tsekenis heavily collided with Wollongong's defender Bourke. To everyone's surprise referee Gordon Dunster awarded Olympic an extremely soft penalty, simultaneously issuing Wolves' goalkeeper Brett Hughes a yellow card for protesting the penalty.

Branko Milosevic luckily scored with his shot which he drove straight but high as the ball ricocheted in off the crossbar.

For the resumption of the second half Ratcliffe wisely brought on the explosive Sasha Dimoski in place of Freestone with almost immediate positive effect.

Dimoski injected much-needed life to a relatively blunt and tame Wollongong attack. In the 63rd minute Dimoski equalised in sensational fashion.

First he hit the right post from inside the box but from the resulting scramble for the rebound Dimoski crashed a ripping drive from 10 metres into the target which literally tore the

netting from the top left section near the crossbar.

Olympic regained the lead in the 77th minute with a spectacular goal from right defender Barrett.

Following a poor clearance by Wollongong out of their box Barrett raced in to belt a rocketing drive from 20 metres that cannoned in off the left post.

Olympic's hard-working striker Kris Trajanovski in the 82nd minute watched helplessly as Hughes made an incredible save from his point-blank blast.

Two minutes from the end Olympic's pacy left midfielder Caleta put the issue well beyond doubt following some magnificent lead-up work from Tome on the right.

A relieved Olympic coach Berti Mariani reflected after the match: "Sure we had to wait a long time into the match for a win, but football is over 90 minutes even though I believe in the second half we were relatively flat."

"Wollongong had some good chances in this period, I must admit," ended Mariani.

When questioned why striker Ivan Kelic did not start the match Mariani replied: "It was a tactical decision as we had been playing with too many attackers and I wanted to bring in an extra midfielder in Angelo Petratos to stabilise the middle line."

Meanwhile a fuming Ratcliffe, who had been greatly angered by some defamatory remarks that

bellowed out through the grounds' PA system, was unavailable to meet the press for comment after the match.

But all the Wollongong players in the dressing room issued an extended invitation for the ground announcer to come down from his box and face them.

Olympic has a hectic programme, when from next Sunday and over the following 13 days they have to play four matches against West Adelaide, South Melbourne, Melbourne Brunswick and Morwell Falcons.

Best for Olympic were both strikers, Tome and Trajanovski whilst Wollongong was best served by the unyielding defender Mike O'Shea.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
 Gibson, Barrett, Sorras, Ironside, Augerinos, Tsekenis, Milosevic (Kelic 71), Petratos, Caleta, Trajanovski, Tome (Mendez 88).

WOLLONGONG CITY:
 Hughes, McFadden, Lloyd, O'Shea, Yankos, Bourke, Horsley, Ricoy (Grbevski 85), Freestone (Dimoski 46), Ollerenshaw, White.

SCORERS: Milosevic 30m pen, Barrett 77m, Caleta 88m for Sydney Olympic. Dimoski 63m for Wollongong City.

YELLOW CARDS:
 O'Shea 20m, Bourke 28m, Hughes 30m, Horsley 51m, for Wollongong City.

REFEREE: G Dunster.
CROWD: 4,276.

POY: Tome 3, Trajanovski 2, O'Shea 1.



Norman Tome: one of Olympic's best.

Marconi thanks sponsors Blues peaking early?

— MARCONI-FAIRFIELD BY ANTHONY RAINERI —

Marconi-Fairfield, forever consolidating their position as Australia's leading club off the field as well as on, recognised their many sponsors with a lavish lunch at Club Marconi last Wednesday.

More than 100 representatives from Marconi's many sponsors sat and mingled with 15 of the



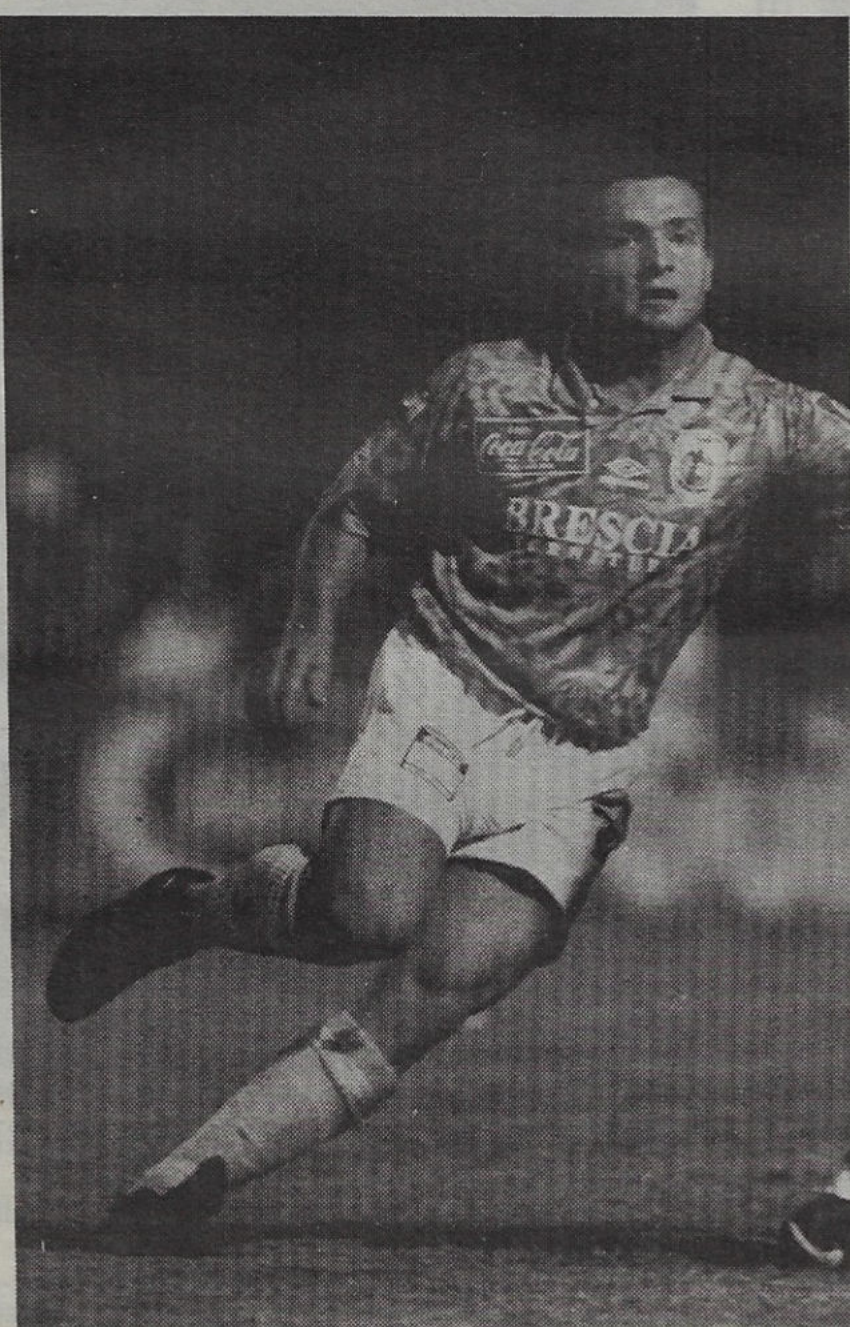
players, coach Frank Arok, assistant coach Rick Budini and three club directors.

SBS Television presenter Andy Paschalidis was master of ceremonies and funnyman Martin Coffee provided the entertainment.

However, guests are still trying to work who was the comedian — Paschalidis or Coffee.

During club president Tony Labbozzetta's address, he paid special tribute to Tony Brescia, of Brescia Furniture, which has been Marconi's major sponsor for the past seven years.

Coach Arok said Marconi boasted some 50 sponsors which contributed a total of



George Jolevski: sponsorship good news for Marconi's players

more than \$300,000 to the club this season.

"We are honouring our

commitment to meet with our sponsors," Arok said. "We plan to do this on a regular basis."

— SOUTH MELBOURNE BY GREG BLAKE —

South Melbourne's slashing return to CCSL duties has thrilled some fans but concerned others.

Already the suggestion is that the Blues might be peaking too early, a theory which is alleged to have cost the club dearly in two successive finals series fade-outs since South Melbourne's grand final success of 1990/91.

Whereas Adelaide City in 1991/92 and Marconi last year appeared to time their respective finals runs to perfection, both clubs winning the title after missing the minor premiership, South Melbourne has been hugely successful in both of those home and away campaigns before failing in both finals series.

This time around the Blues have commenced the league blitz in earnest, easily accounting for the Sharks, Adelaide City, BUSC and Heidelberg and drawing away at Marconi since returning to league action.

But, according to South Melbourne boss Jim Pyrgolios, there is no such thing as peaking too early.

"I'm not worried about peaking too early," he says.

"Mind you, I never expected the players to be in such good condition so early.

"The important thing is that they have been very consistent every week.

"They cannot be perfect every week, but I'm not worried at all.

"I know that there is a long way to go and that the finals are a different matter, but you cannot



Should the Blues be celebrating their early season form?

do anything other than take it game by game."

For the record, the Blues record this season after six games (end of round nine) is on par with its effort in the 1990/91 title winning season.

South Melbourne's summer

season record is:

Year	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	Pos
89/90	3	1	2	7	4	1	0	1	14th
90/91	3	3	0	8	3	3	0	1	1st
91/92	5	0	1	22	5	1	0	2	3rd
92/93	3	1	2	8	7	0	0	3	3rd
93/94	4	1	1	13	2	?	?	?	?

Katholos lashes ref

— SYDNEY OLYMPIC BY ALFRED HIATT —



Irate Sydney Olympic youth coach Peter Katholos, furious at the substandard refereeing in the National Youth League, has made an official complaint to the ASF.

Katholos blasted Ivan Jurkovic, the referee in the recent Youth League clash between Olympic and Sydney United, saying: "The players were laughing at him and the crowd were abusing him.

"He missed three clear penalties, and gave yellow cards for swearing and nothing for vicious challenges. He is not good enough for that level, and should not be allowed to progress."

Katholos insisted: "I am not being a sore loser. Lee Sterrey (the Sydney United youth coach) agreed with me that the referee was a nightmare. The issue is not the result, it is about developing kids.

"The discipline of the game was lost, and that should never happen. Players knew they could commit fouls without being punished."

He added: "We all want to win, and as a coach I work hard to prepare my team. I don't want some idiot to come along and ruin it.

"The players have had better referees in lower grades."

Katholos criticised the ASF referees' committee for using



Robbie Ironside: Sydney Olympic.

Youth League games to blood inexperienced referees.

The former Socceroo and Sydney Olympic star fumed: "There must be a better criteria for selecting referees.

"Youth League referees are refereeing first-graders, and in a couple of years they will be

refereeing the top grade. Then we'll be looking around and wondering how the hell they ever got to this level.

"That's why we can't let these guys progress."

National Director of Referees Gary Power was unavailable for comment.

The Zebras market

— ADELAIDE CITY BY SARAH CLARRY —



City have done it again with a pre-Christmas extravaganza put on for Sunday's Morwell match.

While many CCSL clubs are happy to rest on their laurels, City continue to campaign for further support and are setting new standards in the sport through numerous creative marketing efforts.

However, most would agree that Sunday's Christmas treat stands out as one of their most successful yet.

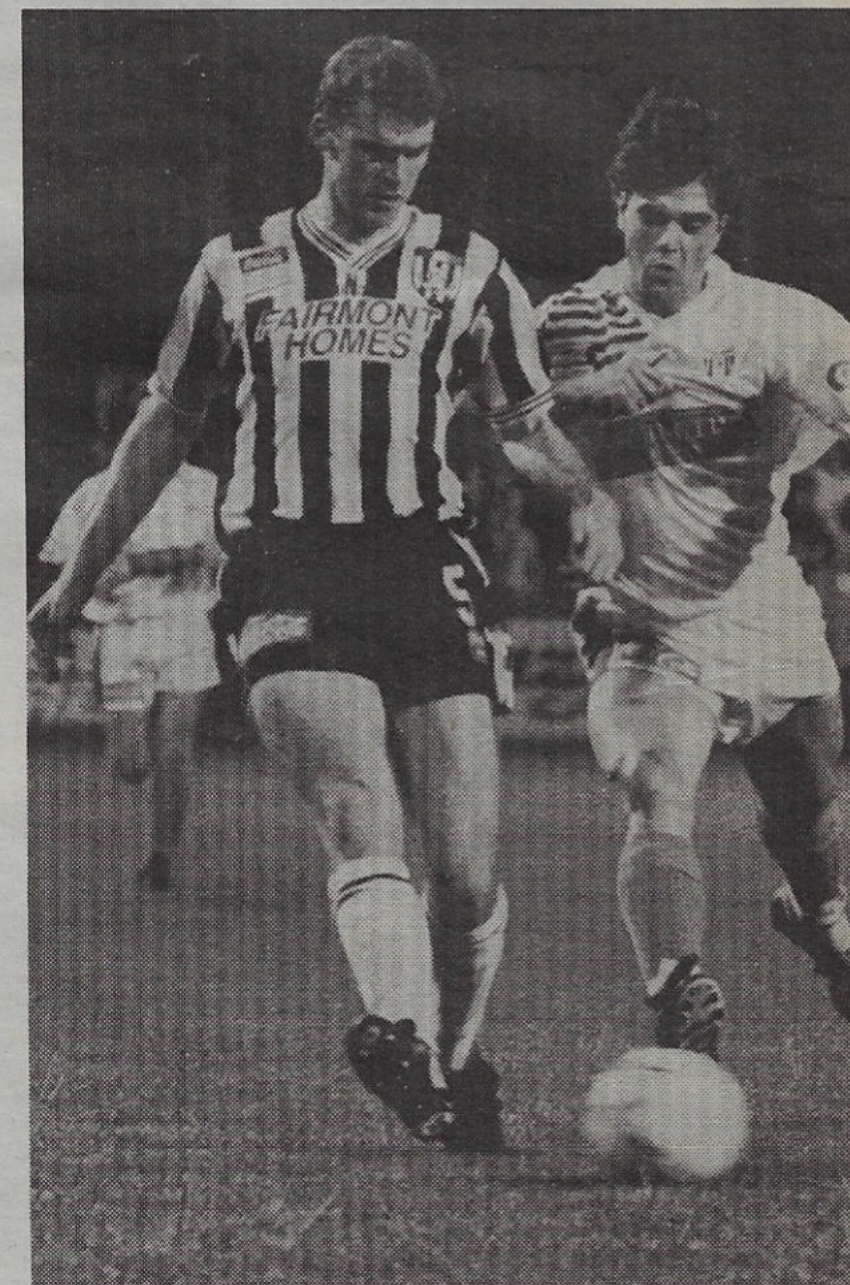
The club is making a special attempt to reach out to the wives, girlfriends and children of their largely male supporter base.

At Sunday's match, Father Christmas and his helpers were flown in by helicopter at 7pm.

There was a 30-person choir singing Christmas carols, and a stilt walker in the distinctive club stripes.

On top of this, a locally-based company, Festival City Wines and Spirits, donated \$3,000 worth of lollies and gifts for those fortunate enough to be there.

The event was promoted heavily through the Adelaide media, and there is no doubt that the club is setting new standards



Alex Tobin: City are setting new standards in professionalism.

in professionalism and image which can only help the game, especially on a local level.

David Jenkins, of Adelaide City Marketing, said: "We are in

the entertainment business and compete with a lot of events at this time of year, so a commitment like this is absolutely necessary."



United signs three Union getting a response

— SYDNEY UNITED BY ANTHONY RAINERI —



Sydney United, already bursting at the seams with talented young players, signed three Young Socceroos last week.

Stopper Marco Rudan, right back Richard Plesa and attacking midfielder Adam Moore will play the rest of the Coca-Cola Soccer League season with Sydney United having just completed one-year scholarships with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

All three players were on Sydney United's books before leaving for the AIS but they had to negotiate new contracts in the past couple of weeks.

Rudan played all his junior football with the club, Plesa started with St George before switching clubs a few years ago and Moore was unwanted by Marconi before being snapped up by their neighbours last year.

The three 17-year-olds represented the Young Socceroos in the international youth tournament in Venezuela last month.

Sydney United youth team coach Lee Sterrey said Young Socceroo coach Les Scheinflug was "quite impressed" with the



Ante Moric: United's youth policy continues.

trio's progress.

★ Sydney United's outstanding prospect Paul Bilokapic is off in January on a one-year scholarship under Ron Smith at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Bilokapic captained the Joys to the quarter-finals of the Under 17 World Championships in Japan in August.

The 17-year-old, 192cm tall midfielder has been starring in Sydney United's youth team this

season.

★ Sydney United's giant goalkeeper Zejlko Kalac celebrated his 21st birthday last Saturday night with a huge party attended by family and friends.

But that didn't stop coach Manfred Schaefer ordering Kalac to train with the team that afternoon in preparation for the crucial clash with Parramatta Eagles the following night.

The Australian Soccer Players Association (ASPA) has been receiving more recognition lately, and as president, West Adelaide's Development Officer Greg Brown has a vested interest in seeing the Association succeed.

The ASPA is the industrial body responsible for the work conditions of Australian soccer players, and though only formed this year, is enjoying spectacular acceptance from the players.

West Adelaide alone has both Brown and Stan Lazaridis on the committee, and many players as members.

Some clubs were somewhat suspicious to begin with and opinions are still voiced about the problems of such a body.

But Brown insists that any negative reactions from clubs are merely a "fear of the unknown" syndrome.

"Some initially thought we started this to cause trouble," Brown said.

"But we are systematically doing the rounds of the clubs and talking to them, and the ASF has recognised us as the official association, so they're fine now."

Juggling his soccer duties and position as club Development Officer, Brown says that most meetings are conducted over the phone.

Involvement such as Brown



Stan Lazaridis: ASPA member.

is offering means that players are getting a fairer deal with match payments, and contracts as well as assistance with areas

like representation at tribunal hearings, and are only assisting the push towards soccer's professionalism.

Spiteri, Mendez for Atlanta?

— PARRAMATTA BY ALFRED HIATT —

Rale Rasic has backed the Olympic hopes of Parramatta Eagles stars Joe Spiteri and Gabriel Mendez, saying: "Only a coach who is blind could overlook these two."

Both will be eligible for Olyroo selection for the 1996 Atlanta Games, and Rasic believes their names should be pencilled in already.

Mendez and Spiteri were crucial components of Parramatta's League Cup victory, and hold down regular first team spots.

"They are two superb talents, they are maturing quickly, and



Spiteri: Atlanta bound?



Parramatta Eagles Soccer Club

are in the right age group," Rasic said.

"Mendez has been brilliant in midfield this season, he has really taken control."

Although Spiteri has not risen to the heights of his League Cup form this season, Rasic is sure he will continue to improve.

"It is difficult for a player who is only 20 years-old to make a big adjustment, and step up to the National League, but Joe's talent is undisputed."

Meanwhile Parramatta, keen to strengthen their midfield following the loss of Michael Reda and the absence of Aytec Genc, are poised to sign import Lucho Naumovski.

Naumovski, from the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, has come to terms with the club but is waiting for clearance from his old club Vardar.

He was on the verge of signing for Wollongong City earlier in the season, but is rumoured to have pulled out because he was not guaranteed a first-team spot.

Parramatta are also chasing a striker who played for Cameroon in the World Youth Championships in March.

BISKIC IS HAVING FUN

— MELB. KNIGHTS BY GREG BLAKE —

The Melbourne Knights are back in town and making life a very humbling experience for the know-alls who wrote the club off pre-season.

Even more galling is the fact that the man leading the charge is the galloping geriatric, Jo Biskic, the club skipper we all thought was just about ready to hang up his boots pre-season.

Biskic, the current leader in ABSW's Player of the Year award, says there is no secret to the return of the good times to Somers Street.

According to 'Biska', the Knights' poor performance last season was merely a hiccup following the club's back-to-back grand final appearances.

"I don't think there are any secrets (about the return to the top)," Biskic laughed. "Last year was just a difficult one for us."

"After the club sacked (former coach Ken) Murphy most of the players were pretty upset."

"It was no reflection on Branko (Culina, Murphy's replacement), but the players were not settled and we found it hard to get motivated."

"In my opinion he was sacked for nothing."

"We lost players early, the coach was sacked and the pressure was on, as it always is at this club."

Biskic says the simple way to explain the explosive start to the new season has been a settled preparation and the fact



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

that the players are enjoying themselves.

"The boys are enjoying themselves again, and that is important," says Biskic, the only player remaining from the club's first CCSL season in 1984.

"We've settled down again, done a good pre-season and the confidence has returned."

"This season we've prepared ourselves properly by starting early and really working hard."

Biskic admits that he considered quitting the game as recently as a year ago, but says that a complete rest in the off-season rekindled his passion for playing.

"I just had a complete rest and now I feel great," says the former CCSL Player of the Year.

"I did consider retirement but I've had great support from the club and the supporters."

"The way I'm looking at it now is that when I find that I can't do what I'm doing now any more I'll quit."

On this season's form Biskic's retirement is still quite some time away.

Naumov to coach

— NEWCASTLE BY RICHARD FRENCH —

Breakers midfielder Rob Naumov is spreading his wings in preparation for the time when his playing days are over.

Although the "super sub" who careers down the right wing is far from finished, Naumov will move up a cog in the coaching stakes next winter, after taking the job for several seasons at Northern NSW Second Division club Hillsborough Makedonia.

Naumov will be player-coach at First Division outfit Edgeworth next season. The club has recently concentrated on improving its home ground, Jack McLaughlin Oval.

But with an injection of



young players and Naumov's experience from stints at Wollongong, Blacktown and now the Breakers, Edgeworth could be a real force in 1994.

*Breakers hopes to address the club's lack of public profile with the announcement soon of a sponsorship deal to tie the club into a development programme through the Department of Education in the Hunter Region.

While the programme will help develop new talent, it will also help the club's players become as well known to the area's youngsters as its rugby league and basketball stars.

*Newcastle people are nothing if not generous, and that should help make Christmas a better time for those doing it tough who will be helped by the Samaritan Foundation. The Breakers have recently promoted CCSL matches by asking supporters to donate tinned food when they walk into Mitre 10 Stadium. By all accounts it has been a huge success.



Warren Spink

Bobby backs Thommo Palatsides leaves

— MORWELL BY GREG BLAKE —

Morwell boss Bobby McLachlan reckons football really is a funny old game as he watches his Falcons put together a concerted bid for the play-offs in only the club's second CCSL season.

"It really is a strange game," he mused, after watching the Falcons down Parramatta at Falcons Park recently.

"This time last year we'd picked up some creditable results for sure.

"But it was backs to the wall stuff - not pretty, but we got some points and scored some goals.

"This year we're doing as well (better actually) and we're playing better, but not scoring the goals.

"Yet we've played attacking soccer and had three up front every week until the Parramatta game."

For the win over the Eagles McLachlan dropped front man Lachlan Armstrong in favor of a fourth midfielder Marcus Stergiopoulos.

Stergiopoulos and fellow midfielders Anthony Cassar and Sonny Sevin starred in what was a vital victory for the club.

And it is with that in mind that McLachlan vehemently defends Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson, 'Thommo' having copped it from all quarters for his lone-striker formation.

"The point is that people criticise Thomson, people who are ignorant and say he shouldn't play with just the one striker," explains McLachlan.

"It doesn't always work like

that.

"Often you end up with the situation where the defenders pick up the (two or three) strikers where they want them to be.

"Against Parramatta the point was proven that three up front doesn't ensure that you'll win games."

McLachlan also pointed out that his three-man front line hadn't been successful in converting as expected.

"We've been creating lots of chances but the goals have not gone in as we would have liked," he said.

Morwell's improving depth gets a boost over the next couple of



weeks with the expected return from injury of Joe Galletti and George Hannah as well as the expected senior debut of highly rated import Alexander Djorgevic.

John Waddell has recently started training again but is unlikely to be ready until early in the new year.



John Markovski: Morwell's trump card.

— HEIDELBERG BY GREG BLAKE —

As belated as it is, Joe Palatsides is thrilled at getting his chance at professional football in Greece with the Kalamaria club.

Even if his sometimes chequered Aussie career ended on a sour note as Heidelberg United got thumped by Palatsides' former club South Melbourne.

To make matters worse, the former South Melbourne grand final goalscoring hero was dragged late in the game as the Blues stuffed Heidelberg 4-0 in front of 12,000 fans.

"Yes, it was very disappointing to go out like that," Heidelberg's 1992/93 Player of the Year said on the eve of his departure to Greece.

"I'd have loved to go out on a better note.

"Heidelberg has been very good to me and I'd have loved to leave on a high note.

"Maybe I really didn't have my mind on the job as much as I should have," he said, explaining his second half substitution.

"So much had happened before the game and I was probably thinking about the transfer."

Not that Heidelberg will be complaining too much, with Palatsides' move to Kalamaria set to net the club a cool \$50,000.

"That's the figure that's been mentioned anyway," said Palatsides, a veteran of four CCSL clubs.

Kalamaria was hoping to rush Palatsides, who flew out of Melbourne last Tuesday, into its side for last weekend's big match with AEK.

"When they told me that I asked why they'd want to do that and whether they'd seen me play," he joked.

"Seriously though, I'm certainly pretty nervous.

"I still don't know about the future at all, but it's too good a shot to let go of at this stage of my career.

"My view is that I'll go there for four months and just take it from there.

"At this stage I'm only going for those four months."

Palatsides was recommended to



Kalamaria by the coach of Aris, the club which trialled the Heidelberg sweeper last northern winter.



Michael Michalakopoulos: yet to find last season's form.

Cranney's got a new ball game

— BRISBANE BY ROGER SLEEMAN —

Twelve months ago, Sean Cranney, the Brisbane Strikers speedster, was riding on the crest of a wave.

He had played a prominent role in the Young Socceroo matches against Brazil in the SBS Challenge, and was regarded by most experts as one of the key members of the squad.

In the match at Marconi Stadium, Cranney playing wide on the right, led his opposite number in a merry chase and showed that orthodox wingers aren't a dying breed.

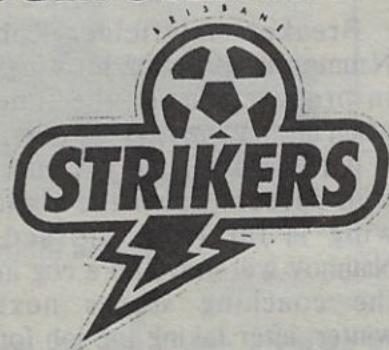
Cranney only had to reproduce his past form during the World Youth Championship and the possibility of a lucrative overseas contract was on the cards.

"I didn't consciously prepare for the WYC with these thoughts in mind, but when you're playing on the world stage it's difficult to ignore the prospects of becoming a professional footballer," says Cranney.

Unfortunately it all turned sour for Cranney when he pulled up with a knee injury against Russia and took no further part in the tournament.

"It was pretty difficult to accept at the time as I'd just recovered from an ankle injury only a few weeks before," says Cranney.

To say that Australia was weakened by Cranney's absence for the rest of the WYC would be



the understatement of the year, as the team desperately missed his speed and ability to get behind defences and provide early service to Agostino and Milicic.

For Sean Cranney it's a whole new ball game in 1993/94 as he struggles to gain a first team place with the Strikers.

"Hopefully my injury worries are behind me now," says Cranney.

"The competition for places is fierce in the team but I'm confident I won't be warming the benches too much longer."

Ironically, Cranney was inspired to score two goals after replacing his brother Troy in the match against Wollongong.

One can well understand Bruce Stowell's cautious approach while the team is trying to pick up valuable points at this stage of the season.

However, if the Strikers' victory against Adelaide City is a sign of things to come, there is surely room for the attacking talents of Sean Cranney as he can be one of the best advertisements for watching the Brisbane Strikers.

Ratcliffe gets Akers

— WOLLONGONG BY PHIL MURPHY —

Wollongong City have signed Kiwi striker Martin Akers but coach David Ratcliffe won't be considering him for selection just yet. Akers had his first training session at Brandon Park last week and conceded he had plenty of work to do.

He hadn't played for seven weeks and told Ratcliffe he would be training every night to get match fit. The 25-year-old, born in Nottingham, England, migrated to New Zealand with his family 18 years ago. He was keen to break into the CCSL last season when Wollongong and Parramatta were interested in signing him.

Akers came to Australia with another Kiwi striker, Martin Coveny, and both talked terms with the Wolves board.

Coveny decided to accept a better offer from Melbourne Knights and Akers returned to New Zealand. Akers said at that stage he was regarded by the ASF as a visa player.

"As there was a limit of two visa players on each club I could not have signed with Wollongong," he said.

"Since returning to New Zealand, I have become a New Zealand citizen and no longer travel on a British passport."

The solidly built striker said he had been very impressed by the setup in Wollongong.

"The complex at Brandon Park is brilliant and the team has obviously done well over the last two seasons," Akers said.

"I just want to get fit, get a game or two in the youth team and



then show the people in Wollongong what I am capable of.

"I played with Napier last season and we won the league and Cup double.

"We beat Christchurch United 6-0 to win the league and scored all our goals in the second half.

"During the season I scored 25 goals and decided that was about as far as a player could go in New Zealand.

"It was a case of having a try in the Australian league."

Akers hasn't given up hope of playing for New Zealand. He is highly rated back home and was recently named in a development squad which is one step away from the international squad.

Meanwhile, Ratcliffe is poised to cut players from his squad.

One night last week, there were 28 players running in the senior squad.

Ratcliffe said he would be axing three or four players. "It becomes too difficult to organise sessions with so many players," the coach said.

"I have picked up Mike Grbevski and Martin Akers in the last week and Mark Battiston is down from Brisbane trialling with us," Ratcliffe said.

Crisis defused — for now

— MELBOURNE BUSC BY GREG BLAKE —

Struggling Melbourne Brunswick has averted a boardroom crisis and is hoping to improve its on-field performances as a result.

President Maria Carmignani has agreed to take on board and work with members of a group which initially had intended running against her administration at the club's late December AGM.

Carmignani says she was approached by "people she respected" and that "good sense prevailed" as her administration continues to suffer the backlash of BUSC's much-criticised return to the CCSL.

"I was approached by people like Peter Ballasone and Domenic Mattioli, people whom I know to have the club at heart, and I was prepared to sit down and talk with them," she explained.



Jim Kourtis of Brunswick.

"I will be inviting them to join the board to strengthen the club's current position and I believe that will make us much stronger.

"Some of those people (involved in the group) will be very helpful to the club.

"Some of them have been on the committee before and they know how tough it is."

Carmignani is still angered by the potential threat to her administration, despite a seemingly successful compromise having been reached.

"Perhaps they should have been in there helping before, rather than riding in on a white horse now to save the day," she said.

"For a time it seemed like everything that could be said or done to interfere with the club was done.

"That has certainly not helped and it started the season off on a bad footing."

Carmignani said the on-field prospects were encouraging despite the early season run of outs.

"I think we're getting it together and that we'll eventually get it right," Carmignani said.



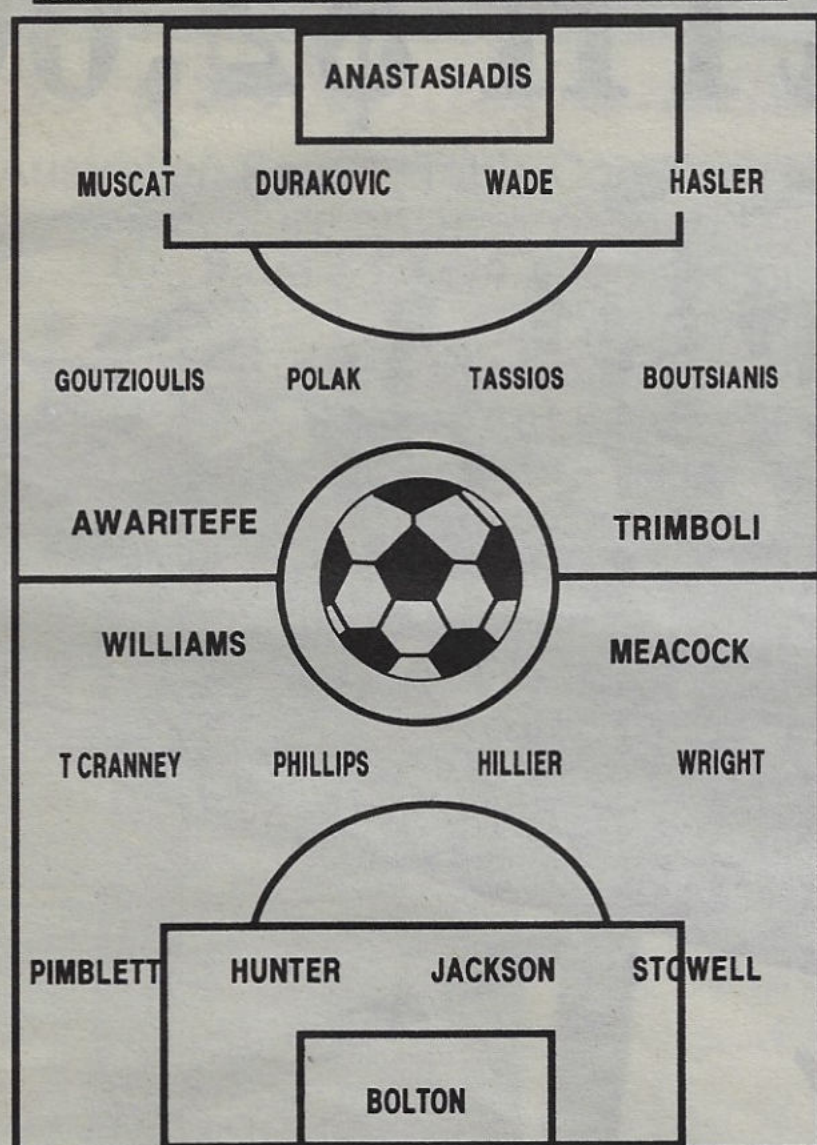
CCSL MATCH PREVIEWS

ALL PREVIEWS COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL



SOUTH MELB. V BRISBANE

AT MIDDLE PARK



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Blues
Alistair Russell: Blues
Con Stavros: Blues
Anthony Raineri: Blues
Roger Sleeman: Blues
Steve Copping: Blues

MORWELL V MARCONI

AT MORWELL F. PARK



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Marconi
Alistair Russell: Marconi
Con Stavros: Marconi
Anthony Raineri: Marconi
Roger Sleeman: Draw
Steve Copping: Draw

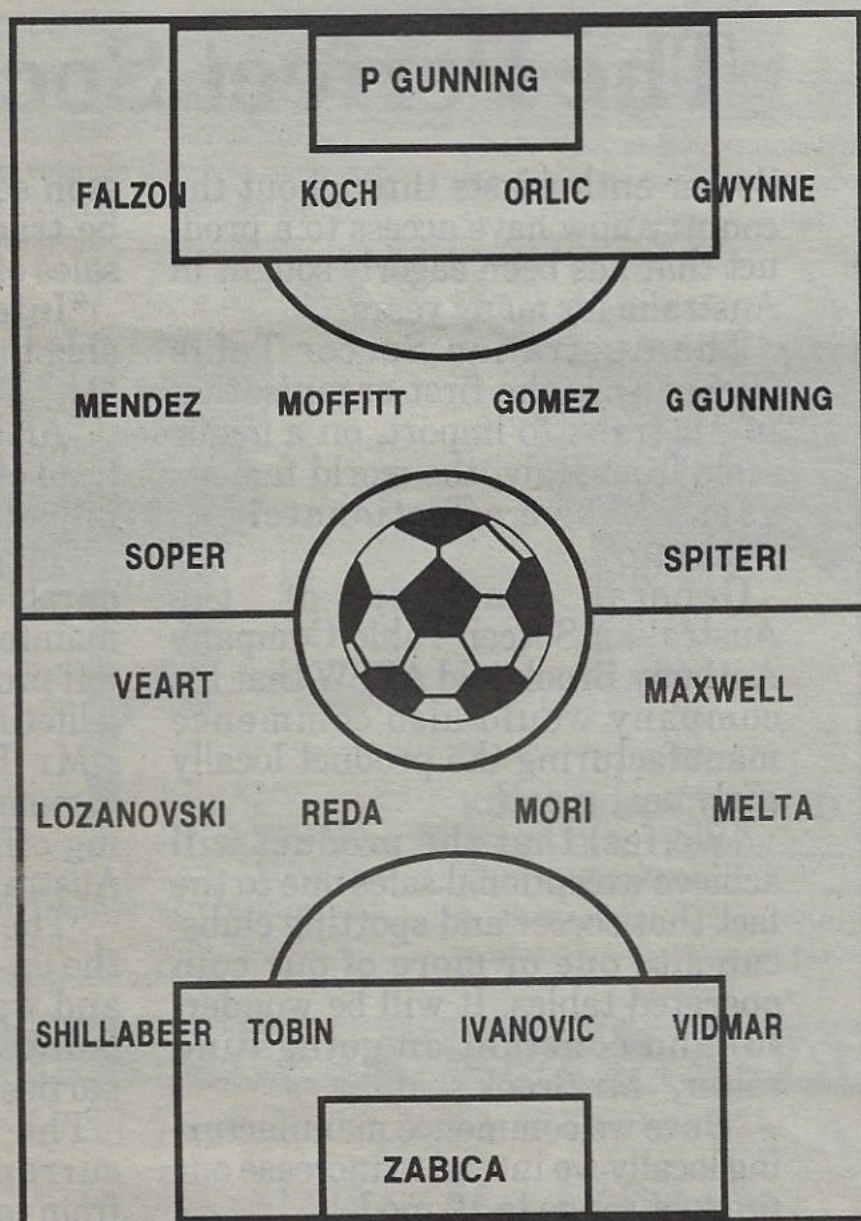
PARRAMATTA EAGLES V ADELAIDE CITY

AT MELITA STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS — ROUND 11



1 PETER GUNNING POY 0
Goalkeeper
20 JASON HOLMES 0
Goalkeeper
2 ADAM CIANTAR 2
Defender
3 GLENN GWYNNE 3
Defender
7 CRAIG MOFFITT 2
Defender
17 TOM HAYTHORNWAITE 0
Midfielder
18 TONY JOSEVSKI 0
Midfielder
5 JOHN KOCH 1
Midfielder
8 GABRIEL MENDEZ 7
Midfielder
6 NICK ORLIC 4
Midfielder
15 ZOKI ADIOSKI 0
Striker
16 ANDREW DOWLING 0
Midfielder
14 JASON FALZON 0
Midfielder
4 GERRY GOMEZ 0
Midfielder
11 GEOFF GUNNING 0
Midfielder
9 MARSHALL SOPER 4
Striker
10 JOSEPH SPITERI 3
Striker
12 GLENN SPROD 0
Utility
13 WALTER ARDONE 0
Midfielder
19 BRENDAN RENAUD 0



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Zebras
Alistair Russell: Zebras
Con Stavros: Zebras
Anthony Raineri: Zebras
Roger Sleeman: Draw
Steve Copping: Draw



1 ROBERT ZABICA POY 3
Goalkeeper
4 MILAN IVANOVIC 0
Defender
2 DANIEL SABATINO 0
Defender
17 JOEL MARINO 0
Defender
14 PAUL SHILLABEER 1
Defender
5 ALEXANDER TOBIN 3
Defender
3 TONY VIDMAR 1
Defender
16 JAMIE CARRENO 0
Midfielder
11 GORAN LOZANOVSKI 4
Midfielder
12 SERGIO MELTA 5
Midfielder
6 TALLADIRA CARLO 0
Midfielder
9 MICHAEL REDA 0
Midfielder
JOSEPH BARBARO 0
Striker
10 STEPHEN MAXWELL 0
Striker
7 DAMIAN MORI 5
Striker
13 JOSEPH MULLEN 0
Striker
8 CARL VEART 3
Striker

◆ THE STATS ◆

DOES NOT INCLUDE MIDWEEK MATCH

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES:

	W	D	L
Parramatta:	3	5	2
Adelaide City:	3	3	4

HEAD TO HEAD:

Parramatta	3	3	2
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LAST TIME THEY MET: Apr 4 1993, Adelaide City 3-0.

LAST TIME THIS GROUND: Dec 20 1992, Parramatta 3-1.

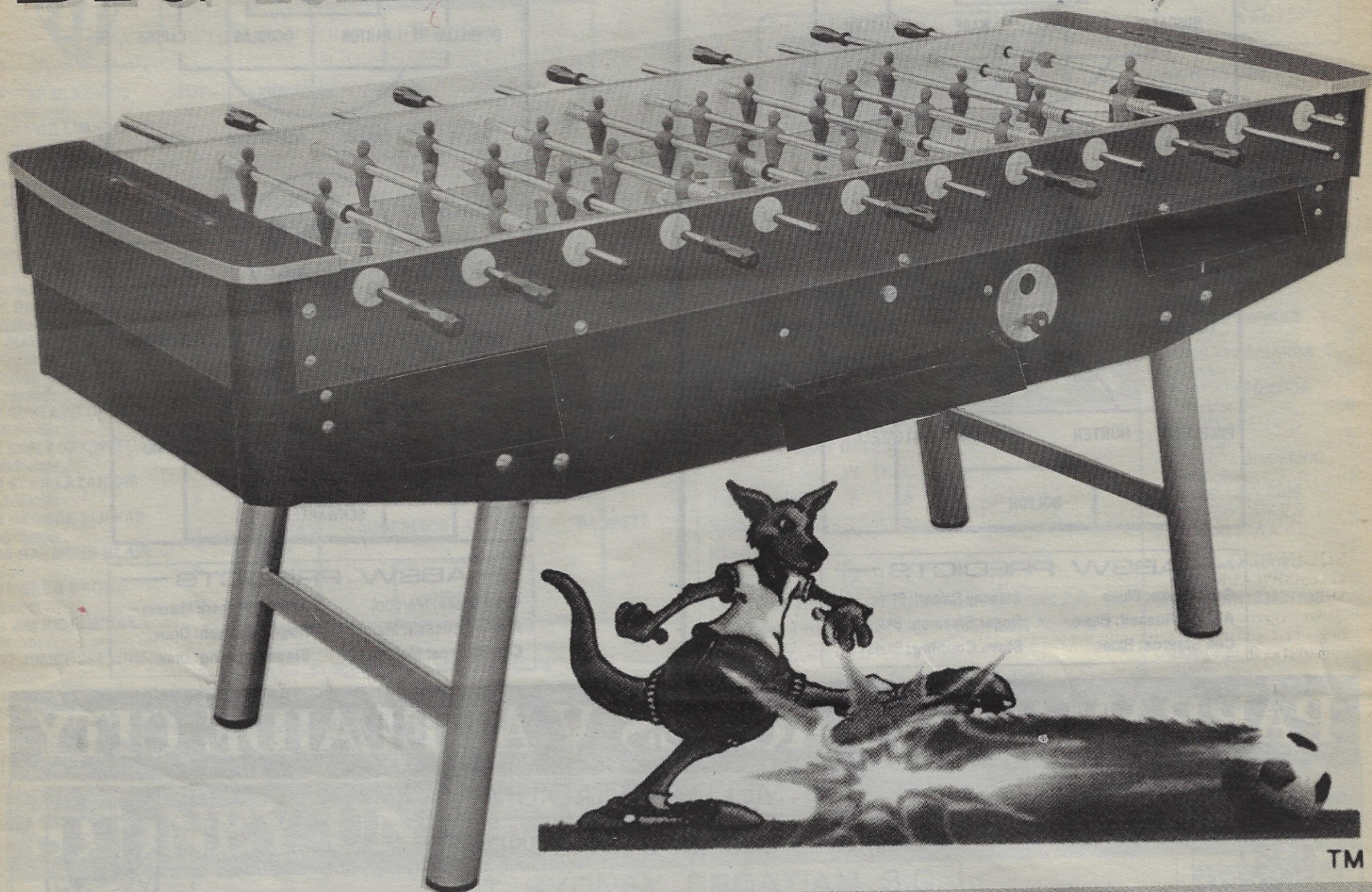
RECORD SCORE: Parramatta 3-1, 1990-1991 + 1992-1993.

Adelaide City 3-0, 1992-1993.

ZEBRA'S RECORD AWAY TO THE EAGLES: 1 Draw, 3 Defeats.

— COMPILED BY GREG BLAKE

YOUR CHANCE TO **WIN** A BIG RED - WORTH \$2,600



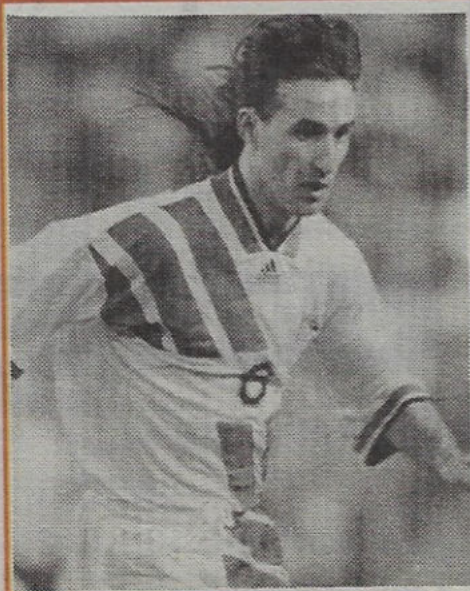
COMPETITION DETAILS

Australian and British Soccer Weekly, in conjunction with the Australian Soccer Table Pty Ltd, are offering you the chance to win a unique soccer table worth \$2,600. All you have to do is identify a soccer player every week for the next 12 weeks. Send your answers in to *Australian and British Soccer Weekly*, no later than the following Monday after the Tuesday edition.

Send your answers to:

SOCCER TABLE COMPETITION
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville,
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WHO IS THIS PLAYER?



- WEEK 1 -

The Perfect Soccer Game

Soccer enthusiasts throughout the country now have access to a product that has been eagerly sought in Australia for many years.

The Australian Soccer Table Company is the first organisation in Australia to import, on a major scale from Italy, the world famous game, known affectionately as "calcetto".

General Manager of the Australian Soccer Table Company Anthony Brook told ABSW that his company would also commence manufacturing the product locally early next month.

"We feel that the product will achieve exceptional sales due to the fact that soccer and sporting clubs' can site one or more of our coin operated tables. It will be wonderful and constant on going fund raiser," Mr Brook said.

"Once we commence manufacturing locally we intend to increase our product range to 19 models.

"We will of course continue to import and the public can then decide."

Australian Soccer Tables' Marketing Manager Peter John-

ston said that the company would be trading nationally and have a sales office in every State.

"Interstate enthusiasts will be able to obtain "calcetto" by March '94," he said.

"Although in the interim our head office will cater to the needs of interstate parties."

The product is very robust and durable and requires absolutely no maintenance.

If properly looked after it will last a lifetime.

Mr Brook also said that his company was in the process of seeking official endorsement from the Australian Soccer Federation.

"The ASF is vitally important to the on-going success of the product and we see a possible association being of mutual benefit to both parties."

The company has 13 models currently from which to choose from to satisfy both the commercial and home markets.

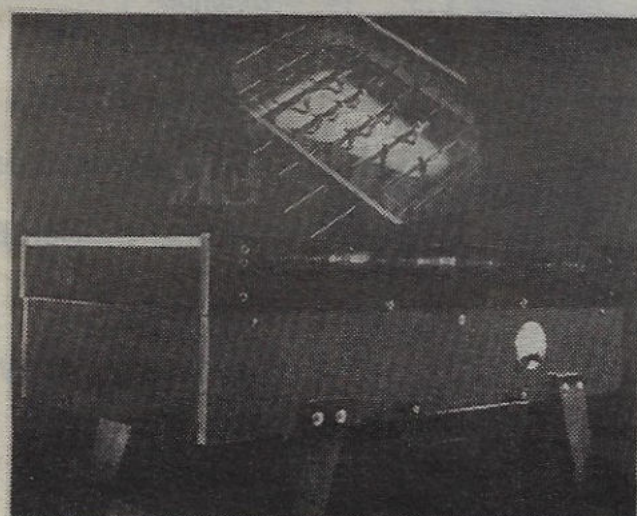
"All tables are exactly the same size but vary considerably in both colour and design," Mr Brook added.

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER TABLE COMPANY P/L

"Australia's only amusement soccer (football) table outlet"

The Australian Soccer Table Company introduces the first organisation in this country to import as well as locally manufacture an array of superbly crafted soccer tables for the commercial and home use markets. We have coin operated and non-coin operated tables to service and suit the needs of:

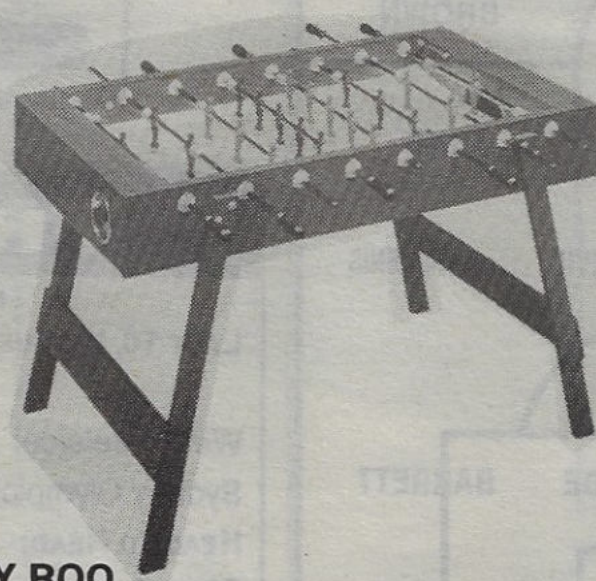
- Large corporations' social and recreation areas
- Private homes
- Amusement centres
- Coffee lounges – pizzerias
- Motels' leisure and relaxation facilities
- Social clubs
- Hotels' entertainment areas
- Sporting and recreational clubs
- Junior soccer organisations' clubhouses



SOCCEROO

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$1,900.00
THROUGH RODS \$1,820.00

Designed exclusively with the operator in mind. A classical, elegant table manufactured to suit the requirements of an upmarket location.



BABY ROO

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$650.00
THROUGH RODS \$600.00

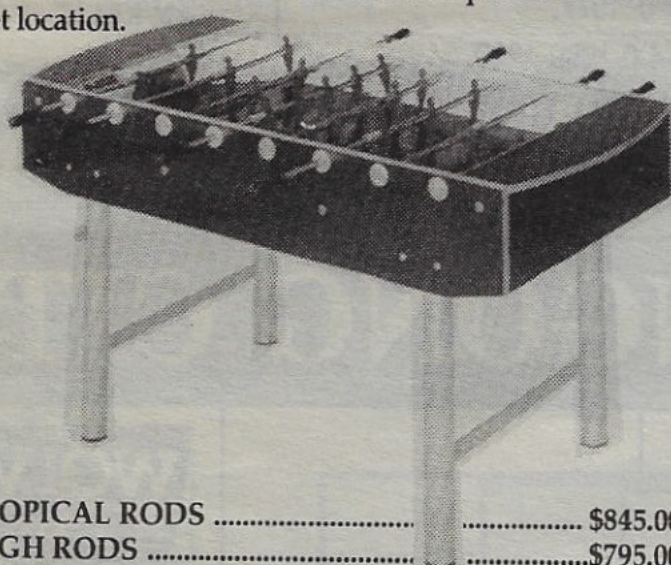
An alternative to the JOEY. Similar features with playing field supported by timber framed legs.



TOURNAMENT

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$1,450.00
THROUGH RODS \$1,390.00

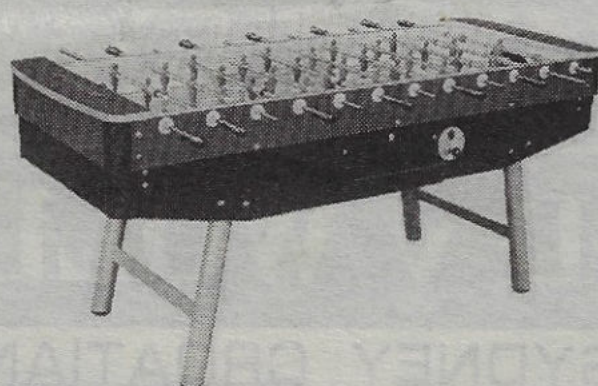
Similar to the STADIO model except designed in a square mode. Robust, striking table built solidly for aggressive commercial use.



JOEY

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$845.00
THROUGH RODS \$795.00

Manufactured exclusively for the home market. A fabulous birthday or Christmas present. A perfect model to entertain the whole family and your friends. Produced to last a lifetime identical in every feature to the commercial models, other than not having a mechanical coin slot.



BIG RED

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$2,600.00
THROUGH RODS \$2,500.00

The new soccer table sensation designed to accommodate and give amusement to an astonishing six players. The first soccer table of its kind to be introduced into this country.



STADIO

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$1,720.00
THROUGH RODS \$1,660.00

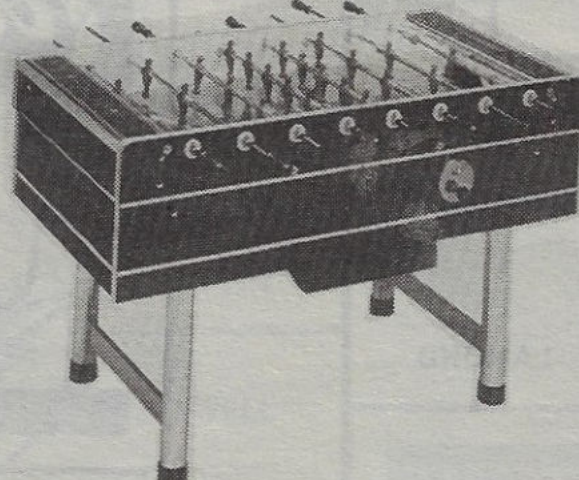
Features playing field dimensions of 114.5cm x 70cm, 90cm in height weighing 78kg. Available in many colours. Meticulous workmanship provides for a durable table with the ability to combat many thousands of hours of playing use. Superb finishing touches gives scope for added player appeal.



OLYROO

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$1,600.00
THROUGH RODS \$1,700.00

The Olyroo has been manufactured with similar features and quality as our other range of models, except the Olyroo contains facilities for refreshment holders and ashtrays.



YOUNG SOCCEROO

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$1,750.00
THROUGH RODS \$1,700.00

A commercial table solidly constructed for a site to accommodate the tenacious player.



MUNDIAL

TELESCOPICAL RODS \$2,250.00
THROUGH RODS \$2,100.00

The first soccer table ever introduced into Australia with a fully electrically lit playing field with a glass top. Ideal for commercial premises that require a minimum noise level.

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Trading Hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.



WEST ADELAIDE v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

AT HINDMARSH STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS - Round 11



1 PETER BLAZINCIC	POY
Goalkeeper	0
20 DAVID LIMAREFF	
Goalkeeper	0
5 ROBERT HOOKER	
Defender	2
4 GREG MILLS	
Defender	0
17 BRETT PULLEN	
Defender	0
14 FRANK TIBALDI	
Defender	0
16 RICHIE ALAGICH	
Midfielder	0
7 MARK BRAZZALE	
Midfielder	0
EDDIE BRISCOE	
Midfielder	0
8 GUSTAVO CERRO	
Midfielder	9
6 CON KOKKINOPOLITIS	
Midfielder	0
3 STAN LAZARIDIS	
Midfielder	5
9 GEORGE SLIFKAS	
Midfielder	2
10 RAYMOND BLAIR	
Striker	5
11 GREG BROWN	
Striker	0
2 JIM KERAMIDAS	
Striker	1
12 JIMMY TSEKINIS	
Striker	0
13 LEMMY VATSILAS	
Striker	0
15 GEORGE HANIOTIS	
Defender	0



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Olympic	Anthony Raineri: Draw
Alistair Russell: Draw	Roger Sleeman: Draw
Con Stavros: Olympic	Steve Copping: Sharks



MICHAEL GIBSON	POY
Goalkeeper	3
GARY MEIER	
Goalkeeper	0
ANDREW BERNAL	
Defender	0
ELIAS AUGERINOS	
Defender	0
DAVID BARRETT	
Defender	7
JOSE MENDES	
Defender	0
BRAD MALONEY	
Midfielder	0
GEORGE SORRAS	
Defender	2
TONY SPYRIDAKOS	
Defender	0
ROBERT IRONSIDE	
Midfielder	0
GRANT LEE	
Midfielder	0
BRANKO MILOSEVIC	
Midfielder	5
PETER TSEKENIS	
Midfielder	0
JOE CALETA	
Striker	5
PABLO CARDOZO	
Striker	0
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI	
Striker	8
IVAN KELIC	
Striker	0
NORMAN TOME	
Utility	4

◆ THE STATS ◆

NOT INCLUDING MIDWEEK MATCH

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES:

	W	D	L
West Adelaide:	3	1	6
Sydney Olympic:	5	2	3

HEAD TO HEAD:

Olympic: 10 1 7

LAST TIME THEY MET: Feb 28 1993, Olympic 2-0.

LAST TIME THIS GROUND: Dec 6 1992, West Adelaide 2-1.

RECORD SCORE: West Adelaide 4-0, 1977.

Sydney Olympic 4-0 1989-1990.

OLYMPIC'S RECORD AWAY TO THE SHARKS: 4 Wins, 1 Draw, 4 Defeats.

— COMPILED BY GREG BLAKE

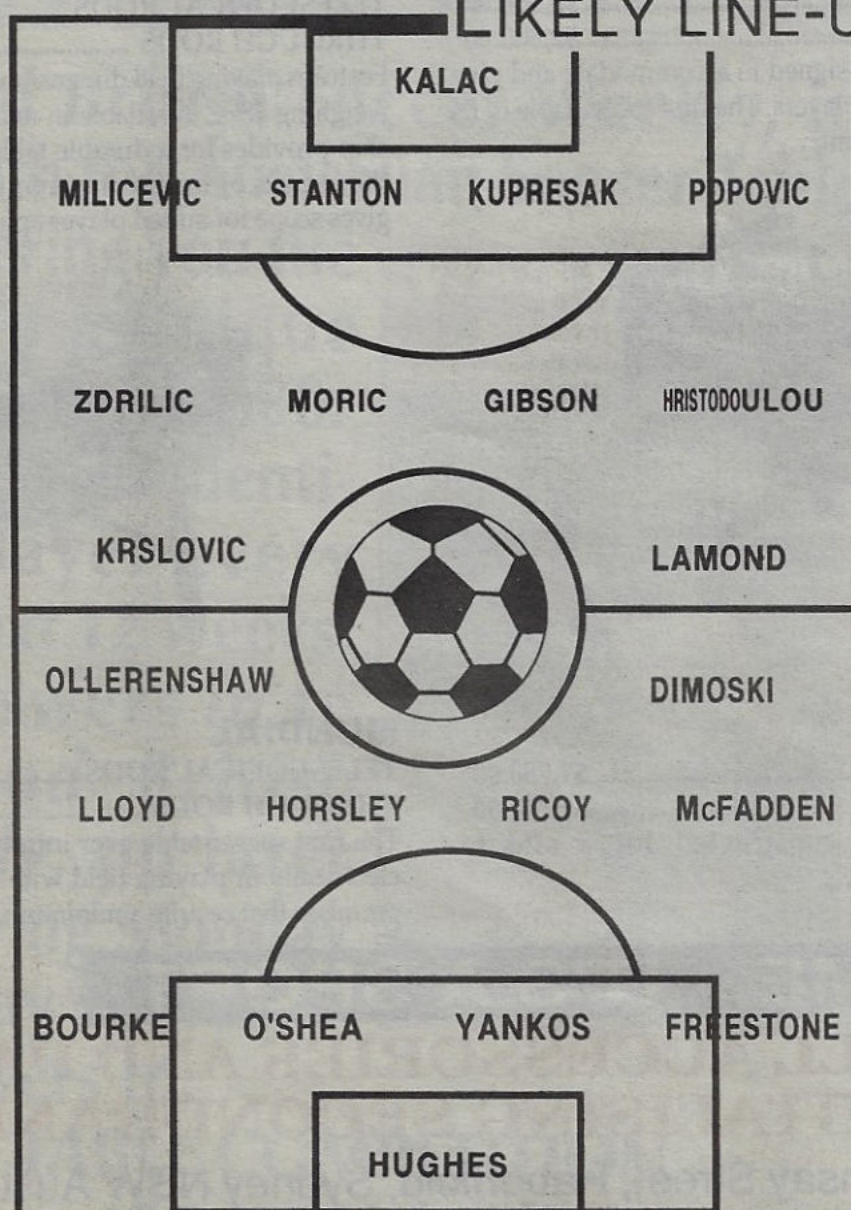
SYDNEY UNITED v WOLLONGONG CITY

AT SYDNEY CROATIAN S.C.

LIKELY LINE-UPS - Round 11



20 TONY FRANKEN	POY
Goalkeeper	0
1 ZELJKO KALAC	
Goalkeeper	2
21 JOHN PEROSH	
Goalkeeper	0
5 MARK BABIC	
Defender	0
3 VELIMIR KUPRESAK	
Defender	2
4 TONY POPOVIC	
Defender	1
2 ROBERT STANTON	
Defender	0
17 ANTE ZIZIC	
Defender	0
10 JOHN GIBSON	
Midfielder	0
9 ERIC HRISTODOULOU	
Midfielder	0
19 MIRKO JURILJ	
Midfielder	0
6 TOM MILICEVIC	
Midfielder	0
12 ANTE MORIC	
Midfielder	2
13 KLAUS OKON	
Midfielder	1
7 IVAN PETKOVIC	
Midfielder	6
14 MARIO JERMAN	
Striker	0
8 TONY KRSLOVIC	
Striker	3
16 MANIS LAMOND	
Striker	5
15 ANTE MILICIC	
Striker	3



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Crows	Anthony Raineri: Crows
Alistair Russell: Crows	Roger Sleeman: Crows
Con Stavros: Crows	Steve Copping: Crows



1 BRETT HUGHES	POY
Goalkeeper	5
SHAUN FREESTONE	
Goalkeeper	2
14 STEPHEN KRISHNA	
Midfielder	0
2 TOM BAZDARIC	
Defender	0
18 STEVEN FORSHAW	
Defender	0
7 PAUL MCFADDEN	
Midfielder	0
3 MICHAEL O'SHEA	
Defender	1
4 CHARLIE YANKOS	
Defender	3
12 ANTHONY SURJAN	
Midfielder	5
5 MARTIN BOURKE	
Midfielder	1
6 MATTHEW HORSLEY	
Midfielder	0
10 RICHARD LLOYD	
Midfielder	2
17 PEDRO RICOY	
Midfielder	0
13 DAVID THOMAS	
Midfielder	0
19 MARK TROTH	
Midfielder	0
8 SASHO DIMOSKI	
Striker	0
11 SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	
Striker	6
9 DALE WHITE	
Striker	0
15 IAN MORRIS	
Striker	0
16 STUART McLAREN	
Striker	0

◆ THE STATS ◆

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES:

	W	D	L
Sydney United:	5	3	2
Wollongong:	2	3	5

HEAD TO HEAD:

Sydney United 13 1 5

LAST TIME THEY MET: Apr 1 1993, Sydney United 2-1.

LAST TIME THIS GROUND: Dec 20 1992, Sydney United 1-0.

RECORD SCORE: Sydney United 5-1 1985.

Wollongong 2-0 1991-1992.

WOLVES' RECORD AWAY TO THE CROWS: 1 Win, 1 Draw, 7 Defeats.

— COMPILED BY GREG BLAKE



MELBOURNE BUSC V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

AT MELB CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE

LIKELY LINE-UPS — ROUND 11

MELBOURNE
BRUNSWICK
UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

1 CHRIS KEFALAS	POY
Goalkeeper	0
20 ROBERT BRIAN	
Goalkeeper	0
JIM KOURTIS	
Goalkeeper	2
15 ROBERT TOMBOLATO	
Defender	2
5 PAUL DELLA ROCCA	
Defender	0
4 ROBERT FERLA	
Defender	1
STEPHEN MARLEY	
Defender	0
10 RINO MINICHELLO	
Midfielder	0
16 CARLOS RETRE	
Midfielder	0
8 ARCHIE McGEACHY	
Midfielder	3
12 SEB EMMANUELLE	
Midfielder	3
7 JONATHAN PILLEMER	
Midfielder	2
9 SASHA BECVINOVSKI	
Striker	3
13 ANTHONY BUDINI	
Striker	0
6 RANSFORD BANINI	
Midfielder	6
2 ALEX KUZMANOVIC	
Striker	0
18 STEPHEN SMITH	
Striker	0
11 ANDREW ZINNI	
Striker	0
14 GEORGE KARALETSIS	
Striker	0
19 PAUL DONNELLY	
Defender	0



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Knights	Anthony Raineri: Knights
Alistair Russell: Knights	Roger Sleeman: Knights
Con Stavros: Knights	Steve Copping: Draw



◆ THE STATS ◆

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES:

	W	D	L
Melb BUSC:	1	2	7
Melb Knights:	7	1	2

HEAD TO HEAD:

Melb BUSC:	5	2	4
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LAST TIME THEY MET: Aug 7 1988, Melb BUSC 2-0.

LAST TIME THIS GROUND: Never Met

RECORD SCORE: Melb BUSC 4-0 1986.

Melb Knights 3-0 1984.

— COMPILED BY GREG BLAKE



20 FRANK JURIC	POY
Goalkeeper	0
1 DAVID MILLER	
Goalkeeper	3
3 FAUSTO DE AMICIS	
Defender	1
6 ANDREW MARTH	
Defender	3
13 VLADO VANIS	
Defender	0
8 JOSIP BISKIC	
Midfielder	13
2 VINKO BULJABASIC	
Midfielder	0
15 VAUGHAN COVENY	
Midfielder	0
5 STEVE HORVAT	
Midfielder	2
17 KRUNOSLAV RAZOV	
Midfielder	0
4 MARK TALAJIC	
Midfielder	0
7 ZORAN TRAJCEVSKI	
Midfielder	4
19 DAMIAN VOJTEK	
Midfielder	0
9 ADRIAN CERVINSKI	
Striker	0
11 OLIVER PONDELJAK	
Striker	2
14 MARK VIDUKA	
Striker	4
10 MARK SILIC	
Striker	5
12 DAVID CERVINSKI	
Utility	4
16 ZORAN MARKOVSKI	
Striker	0
18 ANTE JURIC	
Striker	0

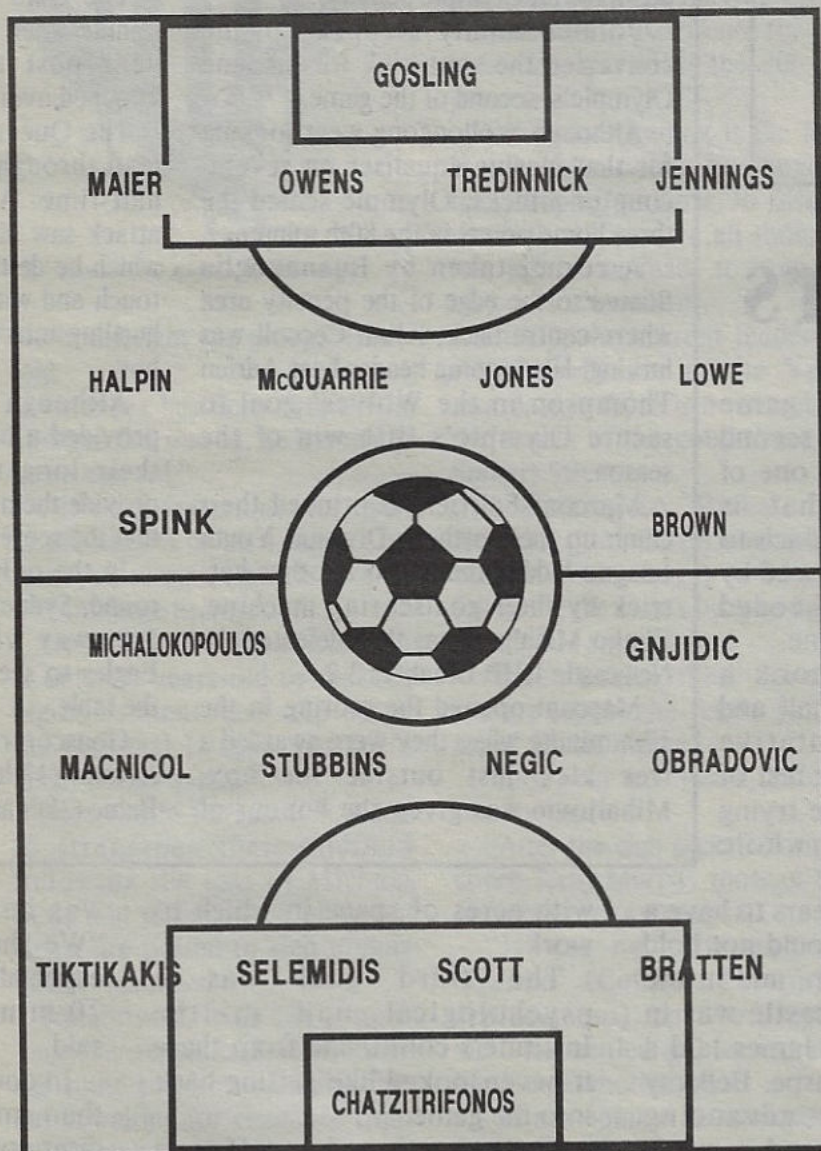
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V HEIDELBERG UTD

AT MITRE 10 STADIUM

LIKELY LINE-UPS — ROUND 11



TROY BELLAMY	POYS
Goalkeeper	0
1 CLINT GOSLING	
Goalkeeper	1
6 GRAHAM JENNINGS	
Defender	0
2 RALPH MAIER	
Defender	0
5 MARK JONES	
Stopper	0
12 NEIL OWENS	
Sweeper	2
3 ANDREW ROBERTS	
Defender	0
DARREN STEWART	
Defender	0
MARK WILSON	
Defender	0
16 NICK MEREDITH	
Midfielder	6
7 BOB NAUMOV	
Midfielder	0
DARREN NORTHAM	
Midfielder	0
SCOTT WELLS	
Midfielder	0
14 HOWARD TREDINNICK	
Midfielder	0
9 RODNEY BROWN	
Striker	2
11 DAVID LOWE	
Striker	1
8 JOHN McQUARRIE	
Striker	5
15 TROY HALPIN	
Striker	1
4 LAWRIE McKINNA	
Striker	0
10 WARREN SPINK	
Striker	9



— ABSW PREDICTS —

Greg Blake: Breakers	Anthony Raineri: Breakers
Alistair Russell: Draw	Roger Sleeman: Draw
Con Stavros: Breakers	Steve Copping: Breakers



◆ THE STATS ◆

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES:

	W	D	L
Newcastle:	3	2	5
Heidelberg:	1	3	6

HEAD TO HEAD:

Level	1	2	1
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LAST TIME THEY MET: Mar 26 1993, Newcastle 2-0.

LAST TIME THIS GROUND: As Above.

RECORD SCORE: Newcastle 2-0 1992-1993.

Heidelberg 2-0 1991-1992.

BERGER'S RECORD AT THE BREAKERS: 1 Draw, 1 Defeat.

— COMPILED BY GREG BLAKE



1 M CHATZITRIFONOS	POY
Goalkeeper	2
4 DOUG HODGSON	
Defender	1
3 ALAN SCOTT	
Defender	0
2 GARY BRATTEN	
Midfielder	0
7 BRIAN MACNICOL	
Midfielder	2
12 THEO SELEMDIS	
Defender	0
11 NEMANJA OBRADOVIC	
Midfielder	1
8 PHILIP STUBBINS	
Midfielder	1
13 PETER TIKTIKAKIS	
Midfielder	1
9 DANNY GNJIDIC	
Striker	0
10 M MICHALOKOPOULOS	
Striker	0
5 JOE PALATSIDES	
Striker	0
15 ANDREW VLAHOS	
Striker	0
14 GEORGE GEORGIADIS	
Utility	0
6 GORAN NEGIC	
Midfielder	3
16 MICHAEL PANOPOULOS	
Striker	0
17 TOM KARAPATSOS	
Striker	0
20 CON KARANIKOLOS	
Goalkeeper	0

NORTHERN DIVISION WITH SARAH CLARRY

✦ RESULTS ✦

ROUND 10

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 19

Marconi Fairfield (Mihaljovic 17, 50, 86) 3
Newcastle BHP (James 22, McKinna 85) 2,
Queensland Academy (Hilli 19, Wood 38) 2
Marconi Academy 0,
Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney United (Jerman
17, Babic 25, 75) 3,
Sydney Olympic 3 (Poimer 45, 73, Ceccoli 80)
Wollongong City (Luff 20) 1,
ACT Academy v Parramatta Colts postponed
to 26 March 1994,
Sydney Olympic Colts bye, AIS bye.

ROUND 11

PLAYED WED. 15 DECEMBER
Newcastle BHP 3 AIS 1.

✦ TABLES ✦

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	8	5	2	1	16	9	17
Sydney United	8	5	1	2	16	6	16
Marconi Fairfield	9	4	1	4	14	22	13
AIS	5	4	0	1	25	7	12
Wollongong City	7	3	2	2	15	12	11
QAS	8	3	2	3	10	11	
Newcastle BHP	8	3	3	3	14	12	11
Parramatta Eagles	8	3	1	4	13	14	10
Sydney Olympic C.8	2	3	3	11	12	9	
Marconi Academy	8	2	1	5	15	23	7
Parramatta Colts	8	2	1	5	6	17	7
ACT IS	7	1	2	4	8	22	5

✦ FIXTURES ✦

ROUND 11

W/ENDING 26 DECEMBER 1993

Sun Marconi Academy
v
Sydney Olympic 5.30pm
Marconi Stadium

Sun ACT Academy
v
QAS
5.00pm AIS Athletics Field

Sun Parramatta Eagles
v
Syd. Olympic Colts 4.30pm
Melita Stadium

Sun Sydney United
v
Wollongong City 4.30pm
Croatian Spts Centre



Sydney United youth action.

Some good news for Breakers

BY SARAH CLARRY

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 3 AIS 1

It was hardly an auspicious farewell for the Australian Institute of Sport's graduates last week when they fell to a determined Newcastle Breakers 3-1 in the National Youth League.

Coach Steve O'Connor said the last game before a change-over was always difficult, with the players thinking of nothing more than going home.

Although the AIS was competitive for the first half and enjoyed much of the ball, it made a few bad defensive errors that were punished by the home side.

Early in the match a Newcastle free kick deflected off Richard Plesa's head and fell for Ryan Smith, who scored with an awesome strike from 25 metres out that gave AIS 'keeper Troy Bellamy no chance.

The Institute almost equalised minutes later with a Robbie Middleby chip, but the shot rebounded off the crossbar and was cleared.

The AIS did pull back to 1-1 when Adam Moore headed home a Jimmy Nikas corner, but it was not long before Newcastle grabbed the lead again when Lawrie McKinna, one of Newcastle's full quota of four over-age players, ran on to a pass up the middle before comprehensively beating Darren Sime at the back and knocking it past Bellamy.

The Institute's best chance of the first half came when Josip Skoko took a ball up before laying it on perfectly for Nikas who crossed to Middleby. Middleby fed it back into the penalty areas for Jon Carter who, though not striking cleanly got a shot in, but Newcastle 'keeper Steve Angelov was able to take it at close range.

The Institute's game deteriorated in the second half, and it became one of those matches that is excruciating for a coach to watch, as was evidenced by O'Connor's unheeded pleas from the sideline.

Marko Rudan took a knock in the first half and appeared tentative thereafter, while the rest of the back line will be trying to forget the whole debacle.

Skoko never appears to have a bad game, but he could not hold the fort on his own, and in the 67th minute Newcastle was in again when Harry James laid a ball on to Dane Sharpe. Bellamy came out at the advancing Sharpe, but in the end it was a simple task for the striker to score.

The AIS's passing was dismal and James proved a constant threat, lurking behind his strikers

✦ ROUND-UP MATCHES ✦

SPOTLIGHT GAME

BY PETER KONSTO

Sydney Olympic are still in pole position after a fine 3-1 victory over one of their main challengers, Wollongong City on Sunday at Leichhardt Oval.

The Wolves started strongly and certainly dominated the opening passages of play. Their dominance was rewarded in the 20th minute when Colin Luff put the Wolves into the lead.

A powerful cross from the right came into the box where Luff timed his sweetly struck half-volley to perfection to give Flavio Navaro in the Olympic goal no chance.

The goal seemed to force Olympic into action as they began to fight for every ball and began to retain for longer periods.

The final ten minutes of the first half were Olympic's as they created chance after chance causing havoc in the Wolves' defence.

One such raid finally produced the goods for Olympic. Referee Brett Hugo awarded an indirect free kick to Olympic inside the Wolves' box, and when the ball was laid off to Derek Poimer, he curled his side-foot shot beyond the wall and into the top corner of the net.

Olympic came out into the second half with all guns blazing with forward John Buanavoglia and Peter Vezos combining particularly well on the wings for the home side.

Both Buanavoglia and Vezos found themselves in the box on a number of occasions and after wriggling past two or more defenders just couldn't convert the opportunities they created.

Vezos created a wonderful chance for Buanavoglia in the 70th minute when he deftly chipped the ball into the penalty area where Buanavoglia volleyed just over the bar from five metres.

Olympic eventually hit the lead just three minutes later when Buanavoglia again beat two defenders and made a great run into the box to be brought down for an Olympic penalty.

Poimer calmly stepped up and converted the spot kick for his, and Olympic's, second of the game.

Although Wollongong went looking for that elusive equaliser on several counter-attacks, Olympic sealed the three home points in the 80th minute.

A corner taken by Buanavoglia floated to the edge of the penalty area where centre back, Alvin Ceccoli was lurking. His looping header beat Adrian Thompson in the Wolves' goal to secure Olympic's fifth win of the season.

Marconi-Fairfield continued their climb up the Northern Division Youth League ladder thanks to another hat-trick by their goalscoring machine, Zlatko Mihaljovic, as they defeated the Newcastle BHP Breakers 3-2.

Marconi opened the scoring in the 17th minute when they were awarded a free kick just outside the box. Mihaljovic was given the honour of

striking for goal and he continued his remarkable goalscoring feats by knocking the ball over the wall and just inside the left post.

The Breakers equalised just five minutes later when Gary Wilson was brought down in the box and Harry James converted the resultant penalty in the 22nd minute.

Newcastle continued to play well and dominated the proceedings for much of the half as they retained possession for lengthy periods and could consider themselves unlucky not to be in front at the half-time break.

However, despite Newcastle's first half dominance it was Marconi who hit the lead after the break.

It was that man, Mihaljovic who again tormented opposition defences to put his team back into the match. He made a great 40 metre run, beat three defenders before burying his side-foot drive into the back of the net.

Just a minute later Dane Sharp missed the sitter of the game for Newcastle as he shot from two metres and with an open goal beckoning put it over the bar.

The Breakers continued to push for the equaliser and it came in the 85th minute when Lawrie McKinna made a good break down the left hand side and fought off two robust challenges to slot the ball home.

From the resulting kick-off, Marconi quickly took the ball downfield and sent a speculative cross over into the box.

A defensive error by Newcastle's Ryan Smith saw the ball get stuck between his feet and Mihaljovic pounced to complete his hat-trick and secure all three points for the Fairfielders.

The Queensland Academy team also continued their good form of late with a good 2-0 home display over the cellar-dwelling Marconi Academy.

Marconi played well but seemed to lack any creative attacking flair as they persisted in trying their luck from long range.

The QAS hit the lead in the 19th minute when Ricki Hilli latched onto a near post through ball which he knocked over the advancing 'keeper.

The Queenslanders extended their lead through Ben Wood just before half-time. A fine midfield counter-attack saw him receive a difficult pass which he deftly controlled with his first touch and with his second sent the ball hurtling into the goal from outside the box.

Although the Marconi Academy provided a better second half display, their long range tactics failed to provide them with the desired effects so that the score remained at 2-0.

In the only other game played this round, Sydney United had an emphatic 3-0 away win over the Parramatta Eagles to see them in second place on the table.

Goalscorers for United were Mario Jerman (17th) and a double by Zeljko Babic (25th and 75th).

with acres of space in which to work.

The third goal was a psychological nail in the Institute's coffin, and from there it never looked like getting back into the game.

Sime capped off a performance he would rather forget when he was booked for a tackle of Brian Cole who then had to be stretchered off.

Breakers' coach Wayne Bailey

was beaming after the game. "We showed a lot of character, especially having to play the last 20 minutes with 10 men," he said.

In contrast, O'Connor was less than impressed. "It was a very disappointing effort - we looked lethargic and lacked enthusiasm," he said.

The AIS now goes into recess until the new squad members arrive on January 9.

SOUTHERN DIVISION WITH ROY HAY

RESULTS

ROUND 10

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 1993

Springvale City 2 Albion 0
(Guarino, Varga)

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 1993

Sunshine George Cross 2 North Geelong 5
(Theuma, Muscat) (Skoko 4, Didulica)

Altona Gate 5 Morwell Falcons 1
(Bogdanovski 3 (Villani)

Atanasovski,

Trajkovski)

VIS 3 Doncaster Rovers 1

(Madarovski, (Napolitano)

Fehmi, Sterjovski)

Heidelberg Utd 1 Melbourne BUSC 0

(Vassiliadis)

Melbourne Knights 2 South Melbourne 4

(Pavlinusic, Coveney)

(Verikakis 3, Anthopoulos)

Preston 0 Bulleen 0

GOALSCORERS

Ivan Skoko	North Geelong	13
Theo Mihaloglou	South Melbourne	10
Michael Curcija	Heidelberg Utd	9
Carlo Villani	Morwell Falcons	9
Joe Tricarico	VIS	9
Steve Bogdanovski	Altona Gate	8
Vaughan Coveney	Melbourne Knights	8
John Verikakis	South Melbourne	7
Nick Cuculevski	Preston	6
Steve Panopoulos	South Melbourne	6

FIXTURES

CATCH-UP GAME FROM ROUND 3

Bulleen v Doncaster Rovers (6pm, Egan Lee Reserve, Knoxfield).

ROUND 11

SATURDAY DECEMBER 26, 1993

South Melbourne v Preston
(4pm, Middle Park)

Melbourne BUSC v Melbourne Knights
(4pm, Croatian Sports Centre)

Doncaster Rovers v Heidelberg United
(4pm, Anderson Park)

Morwell Falcons v VIS
(5pm, Chaplin Reserve)

Bulleen v Springvale City
(4pm, Veneto Club)

North Geelong v Albion
(4pm, Elcho Park)

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	10	9	0	1	34	9	27
VIS	10	8	0	2	23	10	24
Heidelberg Utd	10	7	1	2	24	9	22
Melbourne BUSC	10	6	1	3	24	12	19
Melbourne Knights	10	5	2	3	22	13	17
Bulleen	9	4	4	1	12	10	16
Morwell Falcons	10	4	1	5	23	17	13
North Geelong	10	3	3	4	24	27	12
Altona Gate	10	4	0	6	21	25	12
Springvale City	10	4	0	6	11	21	12
Preston	10	2	4	4	17	21	10
Albion	10	3	0	7	18	29	9
Doncaster Rovers	9	1	0	8	7	32	3
Sunshine GC	10	0	2	8	14	39	2

ROUND-UP MATCHES

SPOTLIGHT GAME

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE 4

South Melbourne came back from 2-1 down to defeat the Melbourne Knights before a big crowd in the curtain raiser at the Croatian Sports Centre 4-2.

John Verikakis gave South Melbourne the lead after 27 minutes with a free kick bent round the wall, but Peter Pavlinusic replied with an almost identical effort for the Knights only six minutes later.

It remained deadlocked until Vaughan Coveney pounced on a rebound off the South defence to scramble home what seemed like it might be the winner for the home team.

Verikakis had other ideas and inside a minute had turned the game around. First he sprinted on to a Steve Panopoulos pass and broke away to give Frank Juric no hope, then he fired home a cross from Con Anthopoulos who had pushed forward to add punch to the South Melbourne attack.

Anthopoulos made the win secure with a goal in injury time set up by substitute George Goutzioulis.

youngsters Vince Grella, David Beattie and Clayton Bell all impressed.

Sunshine George Cross was overrun by North Geelong to the tune of five goals to two at Chaplin Reserve.

Ivan Skoko shot to the top of the scoring table with four goals for North. The other came from John Didulica, who was brought down to give Skoko his first from the penalty spot. Dale Theuma and Allan Muscat replied for George.

Altona Gate made it eleven goals this week with a 5-1 win over Morwell Falcons.

Steve Bogdanovski scored his second hat-trick in succession to lead the way.

Springvale City ended a six-game losing streak with a 2-0 win over Albion. Tommy Guarino opened the scoring and Richard Varga fired home a free kick to settle the result.

Albion's indiscipline cost it dearly in this match.

PREVIEW ROUND 11

All the matches in Round 11 will be played on Sunday with the top game being between the co-tenants of the Australian Croatian sports Centre at Somers Street as Melbourne Pumas take on the Knights.

Both teams are capable of scoring several goals and a high quality draw is a reasonable forecast. South Melbourne should strengthen its position at the top at the expense of Preston, while Heidelberg United will be too strong for Doncaster Rovers at Anderson Park.

The match between Morwell Falcons and the VIS should produced plenty of goals, with the VIS likely to get the majority.

Altona gate will overcome Sunshine George Cross at Chaplin Reserve. Bulleen should account for Springvale and Albion may get a draw from North Geelong at Elcho Park. Bulleen should add three points to its tally when it plays the only outstanding game, a delayed Round Three clash with Doncaster Rovers at Egan Lee Reserve tomorrow at 6pm.

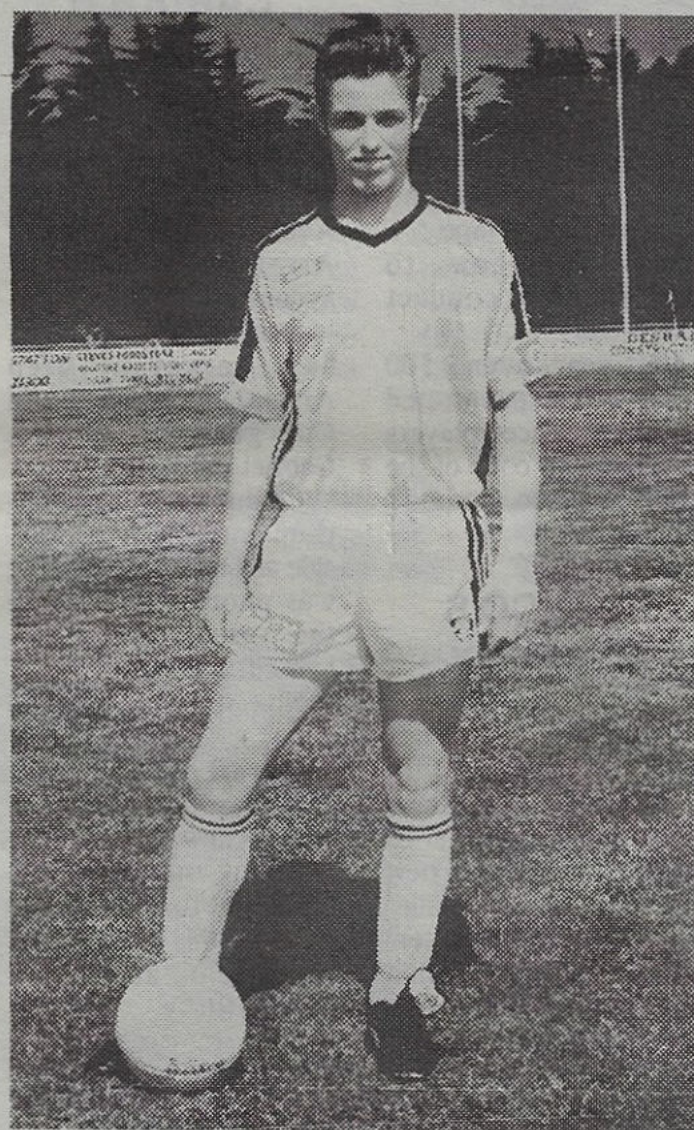
ROUND-UP

In a double-header at Paisley Park on Thursday, the Victorian Institute of Sport defeated Preston narrowly by three goals to two and Altona gate demolished Springvale City by six goals to nil. These were catch-up games from Round 4.

Heidelberg United beat Melbourne Pumas with the only goal of the game scored by Eric Vassiliadis. The Pumas defence stopped expecting a whistle but Vassiliadis carried on to score from 30 metres with a fine shot. There were no goals at the Connor Reserve between Preston and Bulleen, but it was a high quality game with chances for both sides. The VIS downed Doncaster Rovers by three goals to one.

Danny Madarovski started with one of his patented free kicks in the first minute and Ozan Fehmi made it two before Antonio Napolitano pulled a goal back for Doncaster.

Chris Sterjovski then applied the killer blow for the VIS, whose



Michael Curcija

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

STEFAN RUDSKI

Name: Stefan Rudski
Date of Birth: 8 February 1978
Present club: Springvale City
Previous clubs: Glen Waverley, Knox City
Position: Midfielder
Honours: Victoria Under-13s
Greatest influence: My Dad and my Mum
Greatest skill: Passing and my first touch
What do you need to work on: Tackling
Ambition: To play overseas and to play in England
Coaching tip: Always listen to advice and watch players who are better than you are.

What should soccer fans know about me? My favourite player is Ryan Giggs and I try to model my game on him. My first touch is the best aspect of my game and I am always trying to do something with the ball.

There is not much of Springvale City's Stefan Rudski, but what there is, is already very good. A diminutive midfielder he plays with his head up and creates goals for his forwards with perceptive passes. Very confident on the ball he mixes up his game, sometimes laying off first time balls and taking on defenders when he judges the moment is right. Definitely one for the future at Ross Reserve.

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

All players will take part in a vote for the National Youth League Players' Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year.

Voting papers will be distributed before the last round of matches. Get to know your opponents, so you know whom to vote for at the end of the year.

REMINDER TO CLUBS AND REFEREES

Would all clubs and referees ensure that they phone results and scorers for both teams to Roy Hay on 052-435966 on Sundays so that the information can be supplied to the press, radio and TV as soon as possible.

I also need the information for the NYL 0055 number, so don't forget or your players and supporters will be upset. Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and distribute it to your players and supporters.



THE GOOD OIL... THE GOOD OIL...

WITH
JOHN
ECONOMOS

KIMON AT LAST

KIMON Taliadoros at long last has broken his "duck"

But it took the powerful, hard-working Marconi striker no less than nine Rounds before he hit the target.

Kim's duck-breaking goal came just 60 seconds after the break in Marconi's 4-1 demolition of Melbourne BUSC last Saturday week.



ANISSA TANN

COUNCIL

ANISSA TANN, the current Australian Womens' World Cup captain, was recently appointed to the N.S.W. Premier's Advisory Council of Sport.

The newly formed Sports Council will be chaired by Australia's Olympic Games triple Gold medalist, Ms Dawn Fraser.

A most diligent worker in Soccer, Anissa aged 24, is by far the youngest member of this select Council.

Ms Tann is also the only representative from Soccer.



Kimon Taliadoros: scored his first goal of the season.

KID STAKES

SYDNEY Olympic's centre back, George Sorras and striker, Kris Trajanovski proved a smash hit with schoolkids recently.

Organised by Ms Anissa Tann, the two Olympic players visited a primary school in the northern Sydney suburb of Cremorne.

The CCSL duo had the kids applauding for more as they entertained them with ball skills.

George showed great

leadership qualities with the school children whilst the always very quiet Kris concentrated on displaying his excellent ball skills and shooting power.

OFF-SIDE CLUB

JOE DOCHERTY, the prominent Board member of the V.S.F., has revived the "Off-Side Club" recently.

This Social club with special after-dinner speakers is aiming to raise money for young

Soccer players.

Joe would very much like to hear from any readers with worthy ideas and may be contacted on Tele (03)-866-5079.

VIDEO HITS

ROBBIE Wheatley and Brad Maloney have just completed making the "Coca-Cola Training Video For Development Officers".

This vivid, graphic video will enormously aid all the Development



ROBBIE WHEATLEY

Officers employed by the 14 Clubs in the League.

The video presentation is not a coaching tape.

It shows how to organise and conduct school visits.

Last year, over 2,500 schools were penetrated by senior Soccer players preaching the code of the round ball to budding youngsters.

BLANCO'S MYSTERY

RAÚL BLANCO has been negotiating with Argentina's former World Cup coach, Carlos Bilardo, regarding a new striker for West Adelaide.

The 'mystery-striker' played with first division side, River Plate last season but was only on loan to them.

The 23-year-old striker who Blanco refuses to name as yet, is currently back on the books of Argentinos Juniors.

Blanco told "Good Oil": "I hope to have confirmation sometime this week from South America as to the player's availability.

"But I have been given excellent recommendations on this player from the 'right people' over there," Blanco assured us.

BRISBANE STRIKER

KEVIN MEACOCK, Brisbane Strikers' goal-grabber, has joined the goal-charts in earnest.

Just three weeks ago the Queensland striker was scoreless.

But after a double strike against Sydney Olympic, Kevin followed up last Tuesday night with another double against Grand Finalist Adelaide City at Perry Park.

Meacock grabbed his fifth goal last Friday against West Adelaide.

Sydney United's Manis Lamond, back to top form, has become a regular scorer and has yielded for himself and team five goals.

CARDOZO

PABLO CARDOZO, the former Sydney Olympic striker who last Wednesday afternoon was transferred to West Adelaide, still treasures Argentina's visit to Sydney last month.

One of Pablo's heroes has always been Argentina's lethal World Cup goal-scoring ace, Gabriel Batistuta.

Cardozo was invited to train with the Argentine side and later that evening was photographed with the great Batistuta.

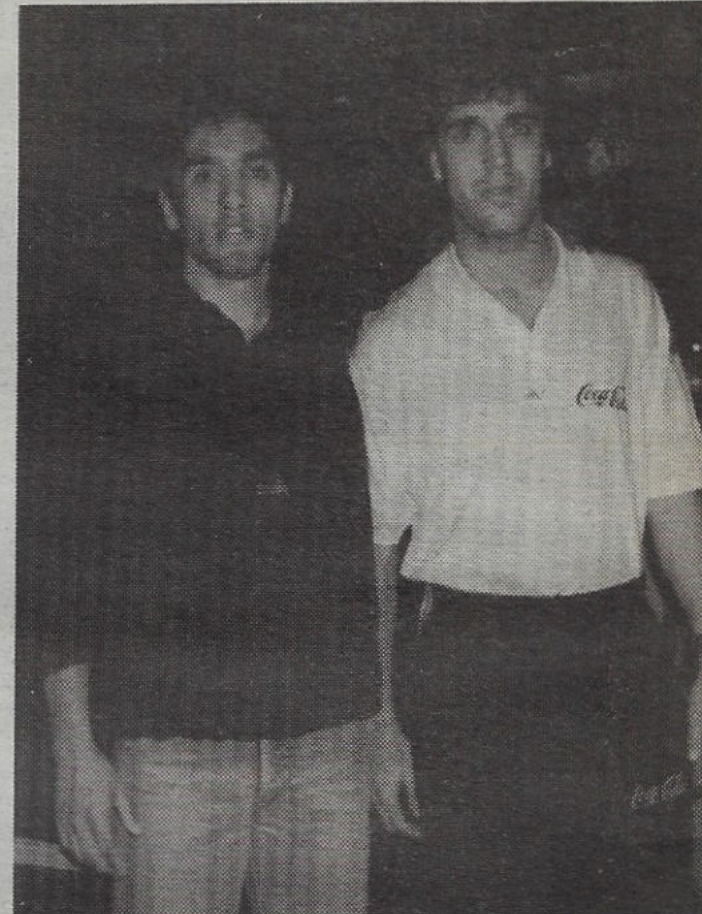
Now settled in with the Sharks, Pablo will celebrate his 21st Birthday this Thursday with his new club.

Flying into Adelaide for Pablo's special occasion this week will be his parents and young brother Ricky.

STILL ON CARDOZO

RICARDO Cardozo, (Pablo's little brother) was not going to be outdone by his big brother when they met the Argentines in Sydney last month.

Little Ricardo (a born left footer) who has been the Sydney Olympic team mascot over the past four seasons, met up with Argentina's captain,



Pablo Cardozo with Gabriel Batistuta in Sydney recently when Argentina played Australia.



MANIS LAMOND

Diego Maradona and left midfielder, Jose Basualdo.

In fact both of the South American players asked young "Ricky" for a photo shot with them. A proud Ricky of course gladly obliged.

EXPORTS

AUSTRALIA currently has no less than a massive 74 players (including four

females) under contract with various clubs around the globe.

And where are all these 70 male players based? The spread is as follows:

England (17), Malaysia (10), Belgium (10), Hong Kong (7), Greece (6), Italy (3), Scotland (3), Chile (2), Croatia (2), France (2), Holland (2), Portugal (2), Argentina (1), Germany (1), Paraguay (1), and Switzerland (1).

MERRY XMAS

"GOOD OIL" would like to take this opportunity of wishing its readers and their families a Happy Christmas, a Healthy and Safe New Year.

As Mr S. Claus told us last night: "If you drive, don't drink.

"I don't, and I've been on the road all week".



Kris Trajanovski: visiting schools.



RAUL BLANCO



Jose Basualdo with Ricardo Cardozo



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

ENGLAND

— December 14 —

FA Cup second round replays
Exeter.....2 Leyton Orient.....2
(after extra time, score after 90 minutes 1-1. Exeter won 5-4 on penalties)
Scunthorpe.....0 Walsall.....0
(after extra time, Scunthorpe won 7-6 on penalties)
League Cup fourth round replay
Wimbledon.....2 Liverpool.....2
(after extra time, score after 90 minutes 2-2. Wimbledon won 4-3 on penalties)

DIVISION THREE

Lincoln.....p Colchester.....p

SCOTLAND

— December 14 —

Aberdeen.....2 Patrick Thistle.....1

ENGLAND

— December 13 —

Norwich.....2 Leeds Utd.....1

SPAIN

— December 14 —

Spain 3 Germany 1 in their European Under 21 championship Group Three qualifier.
Scorers:
Spain - Julen Guerrero, Antonio Acosta
Germany - Christian Nerlinger
Attendance: 15,000

SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

— December 14 —

Premier Division

Aberdeen.....2 Partick.....1
Division One
Dunfermline.....6 Ayr.....1
F.A. Cup first round replay
Queen's Park.....2 Cowdenbeath.....3

ENGLAND LEAGUE CUP

FOURTH ROUND REPLAYS

— December 15 —

League Cup fourth round replays
Manchester City..1 Nottingham F.....2
(Forest at home to Tranmere in the quarter-finals)
Portsmouth.....1 Peterborough.....0
(Portsmouth away to Manchester Utd)
F.A. Cup second round replay
Nuneaton.....0 Bournemouth.....1
(Bournemouth away to Preston in the third round)

ITALIAN CUP RESULTS

— December 15 —

Last 16
Piacenza 1 AC Milan 0 (first leg 1-1)
Torino 0 Atalanta 0 (3-0)
Avellino 2 Ancona 2 (0-1)
Venice 0 Fiorentina 0 (2-1)
Brescia 2 Parma 3 (1-1)
Foggia 2 Cesena 0 (0-1)
Inter Milan 2 Udinese 1 (0-0)
AS Roma v Sampdoria on Thursday

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL

— December 15 —

Argentina.....2 Germany.....1
Scorers:
Germany - Andy Moeller (8th minute)
Argentina - Hernan Diaz (5th), Abel Balbo (64th)
Attendance: 33,000

SCOTLAND

Premier Division

— December 15 —

Hearts.....2 Motherwell.....3

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

— December 15 —

Montpellier.....0 Marseille.....2

ENGLAND

Premier Division

Blackburn.....2 Manchester City..0

Coventry.....1 Oldham.....1
Everton.....0 Newcastle.....2
Ipswich.....2 Norwich.....1
Leeds.....2 Arsenal.....1
Sheffield Wed.....5 West Ham.....0
Swindon.....2 Southampton.....1
Tottenham.....3 Liverpool.....3
Wimbledon.....2 Sheffield United..0
Manchester Utd.....3 Aston Villa.....1
Played yesterday: Queen's Park
Rangers v Chelsea

Division One

Birmingham.....1 Charlton.....0
Bolton.....1 Grimsby.....1
Bristol City.....2 Wolverhampton..1
Middlesbrough.....3 Notts County.....0
Portsmouth.....1 Oxford.....1
Sunderland.....1 Derby.....0
Millwall.....2 Stoke.....0
Nottingham F.....2 Southend.....0
Peterborough.....1 Leicester.....1
Tranmere.....0 Crystal Palace.....1
Watford.....2 Luton.....2
West Bromwich.....1 Barnsley.....1

Division Two

Bournemouth.....3 Bristol Rovers.....0
Brighton.....0 Bradford.....1
Exeter.....2 Brentford.....2
Hull.....4 Barnet.....4
Leyton Orient.....2 Cardiff.....2
Port Vale.....1 Burnley.....1
Reading.....0 Huddersfield.....0
Swansea.....1 York.....2
Blackpool.....2 Cambridge Utd.....3

Division Three

Chesterfield.....3 Gillingham.....2
Northampton.....0 Bury.....1
Rochdale.....0 Darlington.....0
Scarborough.....0 Hereford.....1
Torquay.....0 Walsall.....1
Wycombe.....2 Carlisle.....0
Scunthorpe.....1 Wigan.....0

SCOTTISH

Premier Division

Aberdeen.....3 Kilmarnock.....1
Celtic.....1 Hibernian.....0
Dundee.....1 Motherwell.....3
Hearts.....0 Raith.....1
Partick.....1 Dundee United.....0
St Johnstone.....0 Rangers.....4

Division One

Airdrieonians.....3 Clyde.....2
Ayr.....0 Falkirk.....3
Dumbarton.....3 Brechin.....1
Dunfermline.....4 St Mirren.....2
Hamilton.....1 Clydebank.....0
Morton.....0 Stirling.....1

Division Two

Alloa.....1 Albion.....1
East Fife.....1 Berwick.....1
East Stirling.....0 Stenhousemuir..2
Forfar.....4 Queen's Park.....0
Meadowbank.....1 Cowdenbeath.....1
Queen of South.....6 Arbroath.....0

Scottish Cup first round replays

Huntley.....p Albion.....p
Whitehill.....0 Stranraer.....4

Northern Irish League

Ballymena.....0 Newry.....0
Bangor.....4 Ballyclare.....2
Crusaders.....3 Glentoran.....2
Distillery.....1 Coleraine.....2
Glenavon.....0 Cliftonville.....1
Larne.....4 Ards.....1
Linfield.....2 Portadown.....2
Omagh Town.....3 Carrick.....3

Conference League

Bath.....0 Northwich.....0
Bromsgrove.....2 Stalybridge.....0
Gateshead.....1 Woking.....1
Kettering.....2 Welling.....2
Merthyr.....2 Macclesfield.....1
Southport.....1 Kidderminster.....1
Stafford.....0 Slough.....0

Telford.....0 Dagenham/R.....0
Witton.....0 Altrincham.....1

Homes League

Bashley.....p Gresley.....p
(pools panel assessed result - home win)
Cambridge City.....0 Crawley.....1
Corby.....1 Trowbridge.....0
Dorchester.....1 Chelmsford.....0

Diadora League

Carshalton.....3 Hendon.....0
Kingstonian.....1 Chesham.....2
Wivenhoe.....2 Yeading.....4
Wokingham.....0 Sutton.....1
Dorking.....3 Grays.....3

TABLE

Premier League

Manchester Utd	21	16	4	1	43	17	52
Leeds	21	11	6	4	36	24	39
Blackburn	20	11	5	4	28	17	38
Newcastle	20	10	5	5	37	19	35
Arsenal	21	9	7	5	20	13	34
Norwich	19	8	7	4	30	21	31
Liverpool	20	9	4	7	33	26	31
Queen's Pk Ran	20	9	4	7	34	28	31
Aston Villa	21	8	7	6	24	23	31
Ipswich	21	7	8	6	20	24	29
West Ham	21	8	5	8	18	25	29
Wimbledon	20	7	7	6	23	26	28
Sheffield Wed.	21	6	9	6	37	29	27
Tottenham	21	6	9	6	29	24	27
Everton	21	7	4	10	20	26	25
Coventry	20	5	9	6	21	24	24
Manchester City	21	4	7	10	19	27	19
Oldham	21	4	7	10	16	32	19
Sheffield United	21	3	8	10	18	33	17
Chelsea	19	3	6	10	12	22	15
Southampton	21	4	2	15	19	33	14
Swindon	21	2	8	11	19	43	14

Division One

Crystal Palace	21	12	4	5	39	23	40
Tranmere	22	12	4	6	34	23	40
Millwall	22	11	6	5	32	26	39
Charlton	21	11	5	5	25	16	38
Leicester	21	10	6	5	32	19	36
Portsmouth	22	9	8	5	31	29	35
Southend	21	10	4	7	34	27	34
Stoke	21	10	3	8	32	34	33
Bristol City	22	9	6	7	27	25	33
Nottingham F.	20	9	5	6	31	25	32
Derby	20	9	3	8	31	33	30
Wolverhampton	21	6	10	5	34	25	28
Bolton	21	7	7	7	28	27	28
Middlesbrough	20	7	6	7	29	23	27
Notts County	21	8	2	11	27	37	26
West Bromwich	20	6	6	8	33	32	24
Birmingham	21	6	5	10	21	30	23
Sunderland	20	7	2	11	20	30	23
Grimsby	20	4	10	6	25	24	22
Barnsley	22	5	6	11	27	40	21
Luton	21	6	3	12	25	30	21
Watford	21	5	5	11	26	41	20
Oxford	21	5	5	11	25	38	20
Peterborough	20	3	7	10	17	28	16

Division Two

Reading	20	13	5	2	44	21	44
Stockport	20	12	4	4	36	18	40
Plymouth	20	11	4	5	40	28	37
Port Vale	20	10	5	5	38	24	35
Bristol Rovers	20	10	5	5	26	21	35
Blackpool	20	10	3	7	35	31	33
Burnley	20	10	3	7	33	25	33
Hull	20	9	4	7	37	34	31
Brentford	20	8	7	5	24	18	31
Bournemouth	19	8	6	5	23	19	30
Bradford	20	8	5	7	31	29	29
York	20	8	4	8	26	22	28
Wrexham	20	7	6	7	32	33	27
Leyton Orient	20	7	6	7	25	29	27
Exeter	20	6	7	7	32	39	25
Cambridge Utd	19	6	6	7	25	27	24
Swansea	20	6	5	9	24	31	23
Cardiff	19	4	9	6	29	33	21
Rotherham	20	5	6	9	26	34	21
Huddersfield	20	5	6	9	19	28	21
Fulham	20	5	3	12	21	29	18
Hartlepool	21	4	5	12	18	29	17
Brighton	20	3	7	10	17	33	16
Barnet	20	2	3	15	22	48	9

Division Three

Crewe	19	12	4	3	42	27	40
Preston	19	11	3	5	46	33	36
Chester	19	11	2	6	35	21	35

Walsall	19	10	5	4	25	16	35
Wycombe	19	9	7	3	34	26	34
Shrewsbury	19	8	6	5	31	26	30
Scunthorpe	19	8	6	5	26	14	30
Rochdale	19	8	5	6	30	19	29
Bury	19	8	4	7	30	27	28
Torquay	19	6	9	4	32	29	27
Chesterfield	18	8	2	8	26	31	26
Doncaster	19	8	2	9	25	28	26
Mansfield	19	7	5	7	24	31	26
Lincoln	18	7	4	7	29	33	25
Colchester	18	7	2	9	35	44	23
Carlisle	19	5	7	7	25	22	22
Gillingham	19	5	6	8	24	8	21
Hereford	18	5	3	10	28	40	18
Scarborough	19	5	3	11	21	32	18
Wigan	19	4	4	11	26	39	16
Darlington	19	3	6	10	22	32	15
Northampton	19	2	5	12	18	36	11

SCOTTISH

Premier Division

Aberdeen	23	9	11	3	31	18	29
Rangers	23	11	7	5	36	24	29
Motherwell	23	12	5	6	32	24	29
Celtic	23	9	10	4	28	17	28
Hibernian	23	9	7	7	29	27	25
Dundee United	23	6	12	5	24	24	24
Kilmarnock	23	7	10	6	21	21	24
Partick	23	6	9	8	28	30	21
Hearts	23	5	9	9	16	22	19
St Johnstone	23	5	8	10	19	30	18
Raith	23	4	10	9	25	39	18
Dundee	23	4	4	15	22	35	12

Division One

Dunfermline	23	15	3	5	58	22	33
Airdrieonians	23	14	5	4	40	21	33
Falkirk	21	12	6	3	38	20	30
Clydebank	23	11	6	6	37	25	28
Hamilton	22	9	6	7	33	32	24
St Mirren	22	9	5	8	28	28	23
Stirling	22	9	4	9	27	34	22
Ayr	23	7	7	9	19	29	21
Dumbarton	23	8	4	11	30	34	20
Clyde	23	5	4	14	21	37	14
Morton	22	3	8	11	21	38	14
Brechin	23	3	2	18	15	47	8

Division Two

Stranraer	18	12	3	3	33	17	27
Alloa	19	9	7	3	22	15	25
Stenhousemuir	19	10	3	6	29	22	23
Meadowbank	19	8	6	5	29	24	22
Forfar	19	8	5	6	29	22	21
East Fife	19	9	3	7	33	27	21
Queen Of South	19	8	3	8	41	27	19
Berwick	19	6	7	6	29	24	19
East Stirling	19	6	5	8	29	36	17
Arbroath	19	6	4	9	23	36	16
Montrose	18	6	3	9	25	32	15
Albion	19	4	6	9	18	27	14
Cowdenbeath	19	4	5	10	24	33	13
Queen's Park	19	3	6	10	21	43	12

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Angers.....2	Auxerre.....2
Caen.....4	Martignes.....1
Lille.....1	Cannes.....0
Marseille.....3	Nantes.....1
Metz.....0	Lyon.....1
Montpellier.....0	Lens.....0
Sochaux.....1	Paris St Germain 2
St Etienne.....0	Le Havre.....0
Strasbourg.....1	Toulouse.....0

TABLE

Paris St Germain	22	15	5	2	31	11	35
Marseille	22	13	5	4	32	18	31
Bordeaux	22	12	5	5	29	16	29
Auxerre	22	10	5	7	31	18	25
Monaco	22	8	8	6			



World champion Germany was given the ideal start to the defence of its title when it drew one of the easiest first-round groups of the 1994 World Cup finals.

Germany begins its defence against minnow Bolivia in Chicago in the

opening match of the tournament. Rank outsider South Korea is also in the Germans' first round group, as well as Spain.

Brazil, three-time world champion like Germany, ended up in probably the toughest of the six groups — and one which coach Carlos Alberto Parreria had feared most beforehand and labelled "the group of death".

It faces Russia, Cameroon, which reached the quarter-finals in 1990,

and European championship semi-finalist Sweden, drawn from the supposedly weaker outsiders' bowl during the televised ceremony from the Las Vegas Convention Centre.

The 'Swedes' only concession was that they were placed in Group B, based in the cooler climate of San Francisco, as they had requested.

Breaking from tradition, FIFA selected the venues for each group after they had drawn them



Rudi Voller: celebrating winning the 1990 World Cup with Germany.

so teams could be placed among their ethnic support base.

Italy will play its three opening games in New York/New Jersey, while the United States was placed in Los Angeles.

Argentina, beaten finalist in Italia '90, was matched against Nigeria, the strongest of Africa's three teams, bringing back haunting memories of the opening game in 1990 when it lost to another African side,

Cameroon.

But Argentina, the two-time champion which will play in Boston and Dallas, landed two of Europe's weaker teams, Bulgaria and World Cup debutant Greece.

Three-times winner Italy was cursing its luck at being thrown into what will be an awkward group with Ireland, Mexico and Norway.

The Italians had said they hoped to avoid Norway, which took three



points off them in qualifying for the 1992 European championship, costing them a place.

Host the United States was given no favours, pulling Colombia, which beat Argentina twice in qualifying, Romania and Switzerland.



Diego Maradona and Argentina have been drawn in Group D. The 1986 World Cup champions will face Greece, Nigeria and Bulgaria.

THE WORLD CUP DRAW FOR USA '94

1ST ROUND

Group A

Sat June 18 US v Switzerland (Detroit), Colombia v Romania (Los Angeles), Wed June 22 US v Colombia (Los Angeles), Switzerland v Romania (Detroit), Sun June 26 Switzerland v Colombia (San Francisco), US v Romania (Los Angeles)

Group B

Sun June 19 Cameroon v Sweden (Los Angeles), Mon June 20 Brazil v Russia (San Francisco), Fri June 24 Brazil v Cameroon (San Francisco), Russia v Sweden (Detroit), Tues June 28 Russia v Cameroon (San Francisco), Brazil v Sweden (Detroit)

Group C

Fri June 17 Germany v Bolivia (Chicago), Spain v South Korea (Dallas), Tues June 21 Germany v Spain (Chicago), Thu June 23 South Korea v Bolivia (Boston), Mon June 27 Bolivia v Spain (Chicago), Germany v South Korea (Dallas)

Group D

Tues June 21 Argentina v Greece (Boston), Nigeria v Bulgaria (Dallas), Sat June 25 Argentina v Nigeria (Boston), Sun June 26 Greece v Bulgaria (Boston), Thu June 30 Greece v Nigeria (Boston), Argentina v Bulgaria (Dallas)

Group E

Sat June 18 Italy v Ireland (New York), Sun June 19 Norway v Mexico (Washington), Thu June 23 Italy v Norway (New York), Fri June 24 Ireland v Mexico (Orlando), Tues June 28 Ireland v Norway (New York), Tues June 28 Italy v Mexico (Washington)

Group F

Sun June 19 Belgium v Morocco (Orlando), Mon June 20 Holland v Saudi Arabia (Washington), Sat June 25 Morocco v Saudi Arabia (New York), Belgium v Holland (Orlando), Wed June 29 Morocco v Holland (Orlando), Belgium v Saudi Arabia (Washington)

2ND ROUND

(Group winners and runners-up qualify, together with the four best third-placed teams)

Sat July 2 1C v 3A/B/F (Chicago, match 4), 2A v 2C (Washington, match 6), Sun July 3 1A v 3C/D/F (Los Angeles, match 1), 2B v 2F (Dallas, match 2), Mon July 4 1B v 3A/C/D (San Francisco, match 8), 1F v 2E (Orlando, match 7), Tues July 5 1D v 3B/E/F (Boston, match 5), 1E v 2D (New York, match 3)

Quarter-finals

Sat July 9 Winner 5 v Winner 6 (Boston, match C), Winner 7 v Winner 8 (Dallas, match D), Sun July 10 Winner 1 v Winner 2 (San Francisco, match A), Winner 3 v Winner 4 (New York, match B)

Semi-finals

Wed July 13 Winner A v Winner D (Los Angeles, match E), Winner B v Winner C (New York, match F)

Third-place play-off

Sat July 16 Loser E v Loser F (Los Angeles)

Final

Sun July 17 Winner E v Winner F (Los Angeles)

MILAN HIT THE TOP

SERIE A ROUND-UP

Striker Daniele Massaro struck two goals to help a resurgent AC Milan defeat Cagliari 2-1 and open up a one-point lead at the top of the Serie A.

The victory silenced the champion's growing band of critics following successive losses in the Intercontinental Cup final and the Italian Cup.

Milan now leads the first division with 23 points from 15 matches and still has a game in hand over rivals.

Parma, joint top at the start of the day, lost its unbeaten home record with a surprise 3-1 defeat against unfancied Napoli.

Second-half goals from Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca and Swede Jonas Thern, his first in Serie A soccer, gave Napoli its first win at Parma in 28 years.

An ill-tempered match was marred by an ugly brawl in the 37th minute, which resulted in the dismissal of Parma's Massimo Crippa and Naples' Eugenio Corini.

Sampdoria stayed second despite struggling to defeat lowly Reggiana 1-0. Attilio Lombardo celebrated his 150th match in the first division with the game's only goal in the 55th minute. Juventus was also made to fight against Piacenza, before second-half goals from Antonio Conte and Fabrizio Ravanelli spared the UEFA Cup holder's blushes.



Milan 'keeper Sebastiano Rossi.

SERIE A RESULTS

Atalanta	2	Genoa	1
Cremonese	1	Udinese	1
Foggia	1	Torino	0
Juventus	2	Piacenza	0
Lecce	1	Lazio	2
Milan	2	Cagliari	1
Parma	1	Napoli	3
Sampdoria	1	Reggiana	0
Roma v Inter k.o. 1930 GMT (0630 AEDT)			

ITALIAN SERIE A

AC Milan	15	9	5	1	19	8	23
Sampdoria	16	10	2	4	28	21	22
Parma	16	9	3	4	24	12	21
Juventus	16	8	5	3	28	17	21
Internazionale	16	7	6	3	21	13	20
Lazio	16	7	6	3	20	14	20
Napoli	16	7	4	5	26	16	18
Torino	16	7	3	6	21	16	17
Cremonese	16	6	5	5	19	16	17
Roma	16	5	6	5	15	15	16
Foggia	16	3	9	4	19	19	15
Cagliari	16	5	4	7	21	28	14
Piacenza	16	4	6	6	13	22	14
Reggiana	16	3	6	7	10	20	12
Genoa	16	3	5	8	12	22	11
Atalanta	16	3	5	8	16	29	11
Udinese	15	2	6	7	10	19	10
Lecce	16	1	2	13	13	28	4

REAL MADRID WIN SUPERCUP

REAL MADRID 1
BARCELONA 1
(Madrid win 4-2 on aggregate)



Glamour team Barcelona has won the last three league titles with Real Madrid the runner-up each time.

Real Madrid won the first-leg match 3-1.

Taking the Supercup — which pits the league winner against the winner of King's Cup play — isn't as important as winning the league title, but it's a start for a Real Madrid

side that has now won four Supercups.

Barcelona has won three and had won the last two.

Barcelona dominated the first 20 minutes and had two clear scoring chances that might have changed the game's outcome.

Instead, it was Real Madrid — on its first shot of the match — that led 1-0 in the 21st minute from a six metre header by Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano.

Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov of Barcelona had the first of the two chances when he hit the post to the left of Real Madrid goalie Francisco Buyo in the 13th minute. Minutes later, Brazilian Romario shot wide from close-in for Barcelona.

Jose Maria Bakero levelled the match for



Barcelona in the 64th minute with a high shot from eight metres that sailed over Buyo's head.

Barcelona's lost Dutch defender Ronald Koeman who was sent off in the 88th minute after his second yellow card.

Both teams face league matches this weekend with second placed Barcelona home to Celta and Real Madrid, which is fourth, away to Real Sociedad.

110,000 watched the match.



CANTONA'S LATE STRIKE

**MANCHESTER UNITED 3
ASTON VILLA 1**

Two goals from Frenchman Eric Cantona and one from Paul Ince gave defending champion Manchester United a flattering 3-1 victory over Aston Villa.

Three of the four goals came in a frantic last two minutes as United stretched its 1-0 lead to 3-0 with late



goals from Cantona and Ince.

With almost the last kick of the game Villa scored a consolation goal through Neil Cox.

United's victory restored its 13-point lead at the top of the table and stretched its unbeaten run to 19 matches. Alex Ferguson's men have reached the half-way point of their league programme with 52 points — 13 ahead of second-placed Leeds which beat Arsenal 2-1 last Saturday.

United has won 16, drawn four and lost only one of 21 league games and bookmakers have stopped taking any more bets on the club retaining the title.

Villa has won just once in the past seven matches — its worst spell for nearly two years.

Cantona opened the scoring after 21 minutes when he slammed the ball



Manchester United's Eric Cantona celebrates with Ryan Giggs.

high into Australian international Mark Bosnich's net from close range for his 12th goal of the season.

Minutes earlier the Frenchman cracked the ball against the post but he made no mistake with his next scoring opportunity which came after the Villa defence failed to clear a low, penetrating cross from the right.

Despite dominating the first half United could not score again and Villa played back into the match with an

improved performance after the break.

But resistance was killed off two minutes from time when Steve Bruce lofted a long high pass upfield. Former United defender Paul McGrath failed to intercept it, and the ball ran on to Cantona who lashed it home with only Bosnich to beat.

A minute later the Villa defence failed to clear and Ince scored from close range. With the referee looking at his watch, Villa still found time to score.

ENGLAND'S LEADING GOALSCORERS

Premier Division

24	Andy Cole	(Newcastle)
21	Sean McCarthy	(Oldham, 21 for Bradford)
19	Ian Wright	(Arsenal)
18	Keith Scott	(Swindon, 14 for Wycombe)
17	Robbie Fowler	(Liverpool)
13	Mark Stein	(Chelsea, 13 for Stoke)

Division One

16	Stan Collymore	(Nottingham Forest)
15	John McGinlay	(Bolton)
13	Steve Bull	(Wolverhampton),
	Chris Armstrong	(Crystal Palace),
	Bob Taylor	(West Bromwich),
	Clive Mendonca	(Grimsby),
	John Hendrie	(Middlesbrough)



SCOTLAND'S LEADING GOALSCORERS

18	Mark Hateley	(Rangers)
16	Duncan Shearer	(Aberdeen)
14	Albert Craig	(Partick)
10	Roddy Grant	(Partick),
	Dougie Arnott	(Motherwell)
9	Pat McGinlay	(Celtic),
	Billy McKinlay	(Dundee United)

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ROBERTO BAGGIO - THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLAYER?

BY STEPHEN COPPING

ROBERTO BAGGIO, who was named by a poll of national coaches as the FIFA World Player of the Year last Sunday, has at last fulfilled his undoubted talent.

It hasn't always been easy for Baggio - he initially struggled to come to terms with the then world record transfer fee (\$17 million) Juventus paid

for him in 1990 from Fiorentina - and at times he never established himself in the famous blue shirt of Italy.

1993 has, however, been a great year for 26-year-old Baggio.

The midfielder/striker scored 35 goals last season, 21 in Serie A - a staggering total for a player who, usually, operates in a midfield role.

Baggio won the UEFA Cup with Juventus scoring

two goals in the 6-1 aggregate victory over Ned Zelic's Borussia Dortmund.

Only last month he helped Italy into the World Cup finals when his namesake Dino Baggio grabbed a late winner against Portugal.

Now that Roberto has been capped World Footballer of the Year, many believe he is the top candidate to replace Marco Van Basten as the European Footballer of the Year (Golden Ball) next month.

The millionaire was also named as the World Footballer of the Year in the prestigious magazine World Soccer last week.

At 26 Baggio, apart from his UEFA medal, has not won the medals that the likes of Michel



Platini or Diego Maradona have.

But, claims the Juventus star, Maradona had won very little himself by his age.

He has, now, the football world at his feet. Juventus are re-emerging in the Italian League and Italy is a team many see as dark horses to win the World Cup in the US next year.

Some of the world's greatest players believe Baggio is now at his peak.

"Roberto belongs to that rare quality of footballers who are able to do whatever they want with the ball at their feet," says Jean Pierre Papin, the French and AC Milan striker.

Injured Marco Van Basten, currently contemplating a sixth operation on his ankle which is threatening his playing career, is also under no illusions about Baggio's talent.

"Baggio's ability certainly deserves important recognition. I can't think of anyone better for keeping 'my' (Golden Ball) title warm for me," said Van Basten.

Platini, rumoured to be returning to manage the French national team, believes that Baggio should play a free role for



Baggio for Italy: USA bound.

ROBERTO BAGGIO PRO-FILE

JUVENTUS AND ITALY

Born: 18.2.67 in Caldoggno in Italy.

Previous clubs: Caldoggno, Lanerossi Vicenza, Fiorentina.

International debut: 16.11.88 v Holland in Rome. Italy won 1-0.

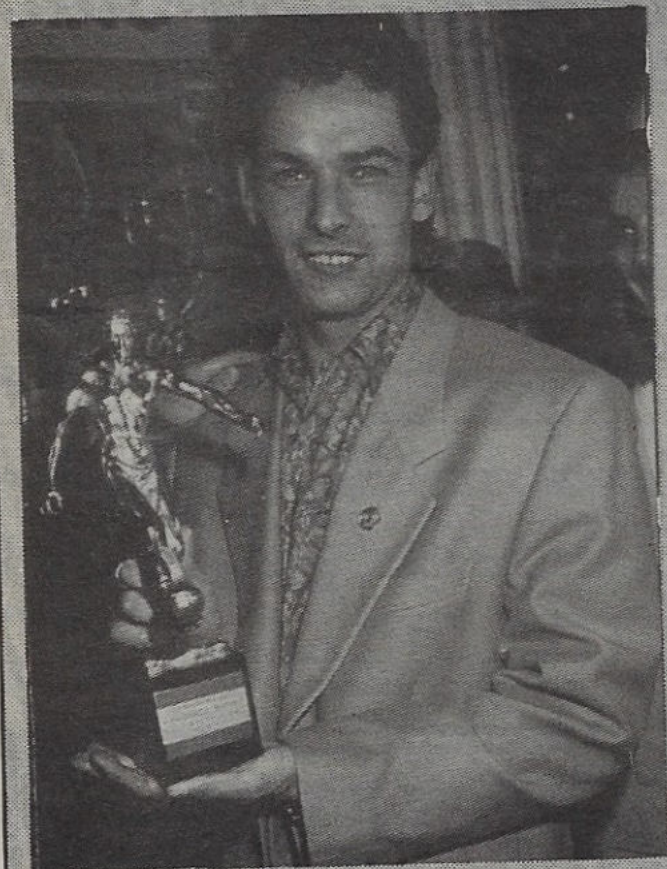
Serie A debut: 21.10.1986 for Fiorentina v Sampdoria. Fiorentina won 2-0.

HONOURS

UEFA Cup: 1993.

World Soccer's World Player of the Year.

1993 FIFA World Player of the Year.



Baggio for Juventus: he helped them to the UEFA Cup.

Juventus and Italy.

"He should wear the number nine and a half shirt," said Platini.

Japanese-based Zico, the former Brazilian forward, who returned to football aged 40 with Kashima Antlers, says Baggio is world class.

"From a technical point of view, it's impossible to find any flaws. His ability is innate."

One thing is certain, no matter what many of the world's greatest soccer pundits say, controversy will always surround those players who are named as the world's best.

Others will argue that Inter and Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp or Sampdoria's Ruud Gullit should have won, however, one thing is definite, whether he wins the European Footballer of the Year award or not, Baggio has at last regained the form all football followers know he is capable of.

STOP PRESS

Roberto Baggio was named FIFA Player of the Year last Sunday. He received 152 points in a ballot of national team managers. Romario, also of FC Barcelona, was second with 84 points, and Dutch national team striker Bergkamp was third with 58 points.

Danish national team goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel was the only non-field player listed among the top 19, getting two first-place votes and 29 total points, to finish fourth.

Bulgarian and Barcelona striker Hristo Stoichkov was fifth (22 points), followed by Colombia's Faustino Asprilla (21), Brazil's Bebeto (16), Dutchman Ronald Koeman (15), Ghana's Anthony Yeboah (13), and Brazil's Rai (12).

Candidates received five points for every first-place vote, three points for a second-place vote and one point for a third-place vote.

SHOCK DEFEAT FOR VOGTS

ARGENTINA 2 GERMANY 1

Germany, 1990 World Cup winners, and favourites for next year's competition in the USA, suffered its first defeat in 12 months when it lost to Argentina in a friendly last Wednesday.

A 64th-minute winner from striker Abel Balbo was their first defeat since they were outplayed by Brazil 3-1 in Porto Alegre last December.

The result was only Germany's second defeat since they lost to Denmark in the final of the European championship in June 1992.

It will give coach Berti Vogts much to think about as the Germans continue their three-match tour of the United States and Mexico, which the full-strength world champions are using as vital experience ahead of next



year's U.S. finals.

Argentina, without Diego Maradona and several other key players, deserved their victory after exposing some major holes in the German defence and could have scored more in the second half.

It was the first meeting of the two teams since the 1990 World Cup final in Rome when Germany won 1-0 through a penalty by defender Andreas Brehme, taking revenge for their defeat by the Argentines in the 1986 final in Mexico.

But the game was played in a hollow atmosphere in Miami's Orange Bowl

stadium compared with the deafening din which accompanied the two teams' previous encounters.

The 33,000 spectators seemed lost in a stadium which holds 80,000, although the large number of Miami's high Hispanic population made their presence known with wild celebrations at the end.

Argentina clinched their first victory over the Germans since 1987 when the South Americans won 1-0 in Buenos Aires. In a brilliant second half, the Argentines were unlucky not to score more.

The Germans created some good chances in the first half, but Vogts will be disappointed his striking combination of Juergen Klinsmann and Ulf Kirsten failed to penetrate an Argentina defence well marshalled by Sergio Vazquez.

GERMANY: Andreas



Koepke, Lothar Matthaeus, Thomas Helmer, Juergen Kohler, Thomas Haessler, Stefan Effenberg, Guido Buchwald, Andreas Brehme, Andy Moeller (Matthias Sammer, 70th) Juergen Klinsmann (Andreas Thom, 68th), Ulf Kirsten.

ARGENTINA: Sergio Goycochea, Sergio Vazquez (Jorge Borelli, 86th), Carlos MacAllister, Hernan Diaz, Alejandro Mancuso, Oscar Ruggeri, Ramon Medina (Arnaldo Ortega, 89th), Hugo Perez, Abel Balbo, Diego Cagna, Leonardo Rodriguez (Roberto Monserret, 88th).



Hugo Perez: Argentina's victory showed they are not a second-rate team.



WORLD BRIEFS

EURO' DRAW ATTRACTS 46 COUNTRIES

All 46 countries who want to play in the 1996 European championship will be included in next month's draw for the qualifying competition, UEFA revealed last week.

But UEFA expressed grave concern about the situation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia and Georgia all of whom are involved in military conflicts. They will be ordered to play home matches in neutral countries if visiting teams are endangered.

UEFA said it was also hoping for a marked improvement in flight connections, accommodation and social and economic conditions in a number of eastern European countries involved in the tournament. They were not named.

The draw for the championship, to be hosted by automatic qualifiers England, takes place in Manchester on January 22.

KUWAIT HIRE SOVIET

The football coach of the former Soviet Union, Valery Lobanovsky, has been hired to take over the Kuwaiti national side.

The Ukrainian will be paid \$24,000 a month during his three-year contract, the president of the Kuwait football association, Sheikh Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, revealed.

Sheikh Ahmad said the 54-year-old would also be provided with free accommodation, a car and airline tickets. He will have three assistants.

Lobanovsky, who guided the Soviet team to the World Cup finals in 1990, was sacked earlier this year as coach of the United Arab Emirates.

SOUTH KOREA BID FOR 2002 WORLD CUP

South Korea will bid to stage the 2002 World Cup finals and will invite rival North Korea to be co-host, soccer officials said.

"We hope that the joint sponsorship of the World Cup would promote closer ties with North Korea," said Lee Hong-ku, newly appointed chairman of the committee to promote South Korea's bid.

The communist North and capitalist South, which fought a bloody war in 1950-53, reached a reconciliation accord last year, but relations now are strained because of suspicions about North Korea's nuclear program.

"At least in sports, numerous possibilities for co-operation exist," said Lee, who also is vice chairman of a government association to promote peaceful reunification of the two Korean states, divided since 1945.

Japan also has announced plans to bid for the 2002 World Cup. No Asian nation has been host to world soccer's major event.

The 1998 World Cup will be held in France. The site for the 2002 World Cup will not be decided until 1996 but FIFA, the sport's world governing body, has said the 2002 finals will be held in Asia.

FIFA officials have expressed satisfaction with Japanese preparations for the 2002 World Cup, but also have said a unified Korean bid would be a strong contender.

South Korea and Saudi Arabia have qualified for the two Asian berths in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

North and South Korea are still technically at war, since no peace treaty was signed after the 1950-53 Korean War. Their border remains one of the most highly guarded in the world, with 1.5 million troops deployed on both sides.

PELE HAS PROOF

Lawyers representing retired soccer star Pele say the sporting great has proof to support his allegations of corruption against the president of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation.

Pele Sports and Grupo Dorna of Spain offered the Confederation \$7.5 million for the television rights for the 1993 Brazilian national championship.

But attorney Paulo Freitas says the rights have been awarded to the Globo and Bandeirantes networks for only \$6 million.

He says Pele's company didn't get the contract because it refused to give Confederation president Ricardo Teixeira a piece of the contract.

US League in '95

BY CHARLES BRICKER

Armed with a \$US100 million budget, a professional league will start in May 1995 with 12 teams playing a five-month, 27-game schedule with Americanised rules designed to pump more attack into the game.

One of the ideas under consideration is a wider goal.

US soccer officials agreed to develop the league as a requirement of hosting the 1994 World Cup.

A week ago, the United States Soccer Federation authorised Alan Rothenberg, the chief executive officer of World Cup Soccer, to create the league. His plans are to be officially unveiled at the World Cup draw in Las Vegas on Sunday.

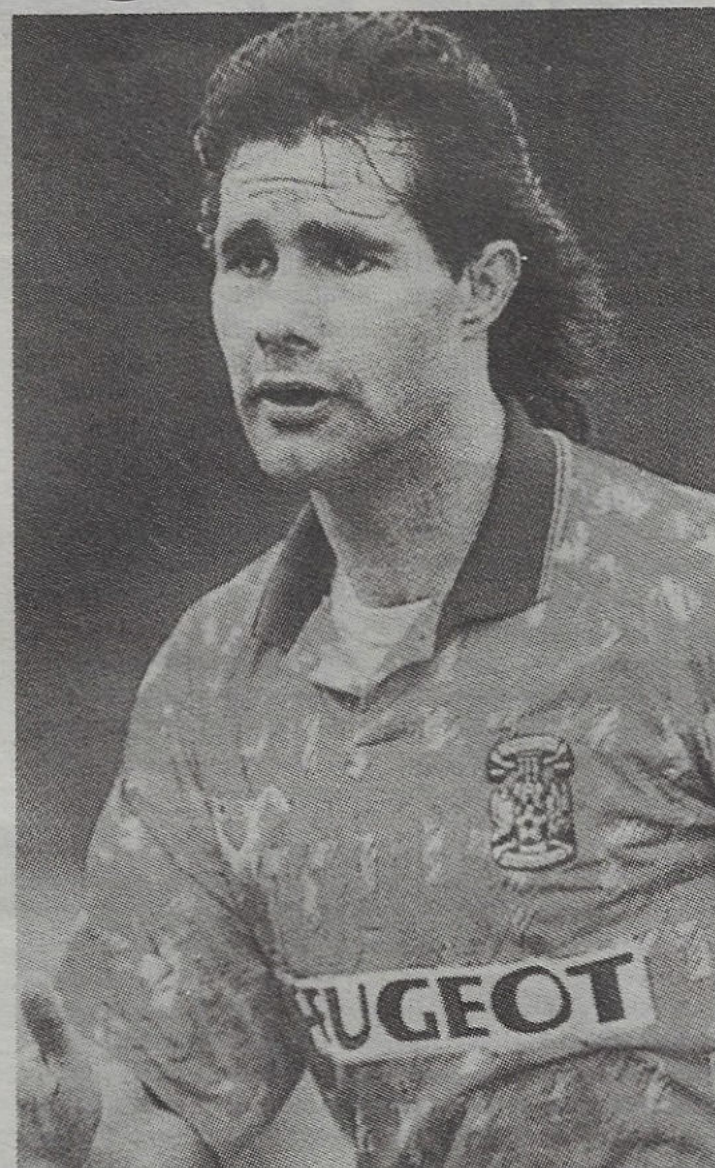
He will propose a "single-purpose league" with close control over all franchises and a \$100 million budget to cover virtually all league expenses in the first four to five seasons. Money is coming largely from World Cup sponsors.

"All the local franchises will have to do is develop a fan base and put fans in the stands," said Jay Miller, who is resigning on January 1 as coach at the University of South Florida to work for the USSF.

Miller said Rothenberg has a long list of possible venues for the league.

"If I was 20 or 21 and I was a very good soccer player, I'd be an excited person," Miller said. "There is finally new life for young American soccer players. There is finally a place to play besides indoor leagues."

Miller said plans are to play in smaller, intimate stadiums with 20,000 to 30,000 capacity. The league would up-size, or down-size, stadiums to fit



Roy Wegerle: a starter in the new US league?

its needs.

Rosters would have 18 players, with a minimum of 12 Americans. Salaries would start at \$40,000 and average \$65,000 — high for American soccer.



Games probably would be Friday or Saturday nights, but there would be cup matches played in midweek, concurrent with the May-September schedule.

Despite the limit on foreign players, Miller said the league is very interested in plucking

some international stars.

The most important factor is control of expenses.

"We can't let what happened in the NASL happen again," Miller said. "You had Warner Brothers running one team with unlimited pockets and Fort Lauderdale with private ownership working like crazy to stay on par."

"If we get franchises competing against each other, it's a lose-lose situation."

In addition to the wider goal posts, Rothenberg is considering bringing back the 35-yard offside line in use in the NASL, which would further open up offenses and make the game more appealing to the television networks.

Whether the new league can get television backing depends a lot on ratings during the World Cup (June 17 to July 17).



IVORY BAN

The Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) said it will appeal against the expulsion of Ivorian teams from next year's three African tournaments.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has decided to ban Ivorian and Ghanaian teams as the penalty for violence in the two neighbouring countries before and after a match on October 31 in which at least 25 people were killed.

The trouble began before the Champions' Cup semi-final in Kumasi, Ghana, between Asante Kotoko and ASEC of Abidjan.

Thousands of ASEC fans were terrorised by Ghanaian supporters and received almost no protection from security forces. They were unable to watch the match, won by Kotoko who were beaten by Zamalek of Egypt in the final in Cairo.

WORLD CLUB CUP IN '95?

A controversial World Club Cup was certain to come about but was not likely to start in 1995 as projected, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said.

Blatter had revealed the plan last week, saying a 16-team inaugural tournament would be held in the summer of 1995 if the proposals were approved by the executive committee of world governing body FIFA in Las Vegas this week.

But he told German sports news agency SID that 1995 looked too early because of other FIFA commitments. The plan is to hold the tournament every two years, between the four-yearly World Cup and European championships.

"I think this is a good moment to introduce a tournament like this, because it would have good economic backing," Blatter said.

"Starting it in 1995 would be ideal, but FIFA has other events then. That would certainly be too early, but (the club championship) will certainly come."

Although some clubs would welcome the chance of extra television money, many others are deeply concerned at the ever growing international program.

SAVICEVIC WANTS OUT

Dejan Savicevic, who joined AC Milan for \$18 million in the summer of 1992 has had enough of sitting on the bench and wants to leave the club.

"Enough! This is too much. I can accept everything but not humiliation. I can no longer play for this team," said Savicevic after being left out of the team that lost to Sao Paulo of Brazil in the Intercontinental Cup final in Tokyo.

"What am I doing here? Am I of no use, do I not count, am I of no value? If that's the case, they should get rid of me. I am ready to leave immediately," added the unhappy Montenegrin.

The 27-year-old Savicevic, who joined Milan from Red Star Belgrade in June 1992, has had difficulty commanding a first-team spot in a Milan squad which has six foreigners vying for three places.

A PARTING OF THE WAYS

The unpredictable and often unhappy relationship between Italian football club Fiorentina and German international midfielder Stefan Effenberg will end this summer. Fiorentina president Vittorio Cecchi Gori told Effenberg this week that his wish to leave the club at the end of the season would be granted.

He may well end up at Milan. Effenberg has been accused by Fiorentina supporters of being most responsible for the club's surprising relegation from Serie A last season.

At one stage he sent his children back to Germany and moved to a secret hotel to escape the threats of the fans. Effenberg believes that his football will now improve. He said, after his meeting with Cecchi Gori: "Now I feel free and my football will reflect that."

THREE POINTS FOR A WIN

Las Vegas reports say that the world soccer body FIFA is planning to award three points for a win in the opening rounds of next year's World Cup finals.

FIFA's World Cup Organising Committee has agreed to introduce the new format at its meeting tomorrow, according to Italian federation president Antonio Matarrese.

Soccer's governing body believes the awarding of an additional point for a win will produce more attacking soccer in the first round league stage of the tournament.

It has been looking at the issue since the 1990 World Cup in Italy which featured a number of dull draws.

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DRAW KEEPS GERMANS SEPERATE



Jurgen Kohler: will face Cagliari.

Three German clubs were kept apart when the draw for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup competition was made.

But Italy, also with three representatives, did not avoid a domestic derby as holder Juventus was drawn to play Cagliari.

Borussia Dortmund, the team Juventus beat to win last season's final, ended up with the toughest task when it was matched with Internazionale of Milan.

The other German clubs fared better by being drawn against the outsiders in the last eight. Eintracht Frankfurt was paired with Austria Salzburg and Karlsruhe, playing for the first time in Europe this season, with Boavista of Portugal. First leg matches will be played on March 2 or 3 and second leg fixtures are on March 16 and 17.

Here is the draw:

Inter Milan, Italy v Borussia Dortmund, Germany.

Cagliari, Italy v Juventus, Italy.

SC Karlsruhe, Germany v Boavista, Portugal.

Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany v Austria Salzburg, Austria.

(First leg March 2, 1994. Second leg March 16 or 17).

'J' League enters finals

Verdy Kawasaki ended regular season play with a 2-1 victory over the Kashima Antlers — the team it faces in the grand championship battle of the Japanese Professional Soccer League.

Verdy already had clinched the second-stage championship of the J-League's inaugural season. The Antlers were the first-stage champions.

The two teams meet January 9 and 16 in the 60,000-seat National Stadium to decide the overall champion.

Before 15,277 spectators at Kashima, northeast of Tokyo, Verdy ace striker Kazuyoshi Miura scored the winning goal 23 minutes into the second half, sending a 20-metre free kick directly into the goal.

It was his 20th goal of the season, most among Japanese players in the league.

Argentine striker Diaz of the Yokohama Marinos



Zico: a star of the "J" League's first season.

was the overall leader with 28 goals, followed by Brazilian Alcindo with 22.

Alcindo gave the Antlers a 1-0 lead with a shot from just outside the penalty

area in the 23rd minute.

Ko Ishikawa equalised for Verdy from in front of the goal five minutes later.

It was the 10th straight victory for Verdy, which

finished the second stage with 16 victories against two defeats.

The second-place Shimizu S-Pulse ended the second stage at 14-4 with a 1-0 triumph over the Marinos before 48,937 at National Stadium.

Katsumi Ohenoki scored the game's only goal with a header 10 minutes into the second half.

Takeshi Mizuuchi scored in each half, powering the Urawa Red Diamonds to a 2-0 victory over Gamba Osaka at Urawa, northeast of Tokyo.

Yasuyuki Moriyama launched a scoring spree in the 22nd minute as the Nagoya Grampus Eight crushed JEF United Ichihara 6-0 at Nagoya.

Pave Cerny of the Czech Republic scored in the 9th minute of the second half and Takumi Shima added a goal in the 26th minute as Sanfrecce Hiroshima beat the Yokohama Flügels 2-1 at Yokohama.

Milan out of Italian Cup

League champion AC Milan suffered a sensational elimination by underdog Piacenza in the Italian Cup.

It was the second flop in four days for the Italian champions following the 3-2 loss against Sao Paulo of Brazil in the Intercontinental Cup final in Tokyo.

A last-minute goal by Italian centreforward Gianpietro Piovani gave Piacenza a 1-0 home victory against the Milan powerhouse in a second-leg match of the third round, which added to a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

Piacenza could also have qualified through a scoreless draw under the Cup system of away goals counting double.

AC Milan fielded its international stars Dejan Savicevic, Jean Pierre Papin and Marcel Desailly but produced few scoring chances despite a steady offence.

A fast counter-attack of the home team in the dying seconds kicked the favourite team out of the



Dennis Bergkamp: scored for Inter.

Cup.

Milan still is in the running for its third consecutive league title and its fifth Champions Cup this season, but definitely missed the opportunity of a Grand Slam triumph

following the upset in Piacenza.

Other third round matches qualified Parma, Torino, Internazionale, Venezia, Ancona and Foggia for the Cup quarter-finals.



Dutch forward Dennis Bergkamp converted a penalty in the 74th minute at San Siro Stadium to give Inter a 2-1 victory against Udinese.

Parma downed second-division Brescia 3-2 with two goals by Italian striker Alessandro Melli and one by Colombian star Faustino Asprilla.

Foggia qualified on a goal by its Dutch forward Bryan Roy in extra time, against Cesena.

Venezia, growing a reputation of giant-killer, eliminated Fiorentina after stunning Juventus of Turin in the second round.

Torino qualified following a goalless draw in the second-leg match against Atalanta of Bergamo.



Faustino Asprilla: the Parma star will spearhead Colombia's World Cup campaign.

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

Otelul Galati	4	Dacia Unirea Braila	1
Gloria Bistrita	1	Dinamo Bucharest	1
F.C. Brasov	1	E Craiova	0
Univer Craiova	3	C P Neamt	0
P Timisoara	1	Univer Cluj	0
Rapid Bucharest	3	U.T. Arad	1
Progresul Bucuresti	2	F.C. Inter Sibiu	0
Petrolul Ploiesti	1	Sportul Studentesc	1
F.C. Farul Constanta	1	Steaua Bucharest	1

TABLE

Steaua Bucharest	20	13	5	2	31	8	31
Dinamo Bucharest	20	10	4	6	40	23	24
Univer Craiova	20	10	4	6	39	29	24
F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti	20	10	4	6	23	16	24
Gloria Bistrita	20	10	3	7	35	27	23
F.C. Farul Constanta	20	9	4	7	30	25	22
Progresul Bucharest	20	9	3	8	30	21	21
F.C. Inter Sibiu	20	8	5	7	27	27	21
F.C. Brasov	20	9	3	8	23	23	21
U.T. Arad	20	8	5	7	19	26	21
Rapid Bucharest	20	8	3	9	20	23	19
Otelul Galati	20	7	4	9	20	28	18
Universitatea Cluj	20	5	6	9	24	28	16

Dacia Unirea Braila	20	6	4	10	22	28	16
Electroputere C.	20	5	5	10	16	23	15
P Timisoara	20	7	1	12	21	34	15
C P Neamt	20	5	5	10	14	30	15
Sportul Studentesc	20	5	4	11	16	31	14

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Benfica	2	Sporting	1
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TABLE

Benfica	13	9	3	1	32	15	21
Sporting	13	9	1	3	22	9	19
Porto	11	6	4	1	16	6	16
Guimaraes	12	6	3	3	10	6	15
Boavista	11	7	1	3	20	10	15
Pacos Ferreira	12	5	4	3	12	9	14
Maritimo	12	5	3	4	18	17	13
Gil Vicente	12	5	3	4	15	18	13
Salgueiros	12	5	1	6	16	19	11
Belenenses	12	5	1	6	12	16	11
Estrela Amadora	12	3	4	5	12	13	10
Beira Mar	12	4	1	7	9	12	9
Famalicao	12	4	1	7	9	24	9
Setubal	12	3	2	7	18	19	8

Farense	12	4	0	8	14	24	8
Braga	12	2	4	6	9	14	8
Uniao Madeira	10	3	1	6	12	15	7
Estoril	12	2	3	7	7	17	7

FRIENDLY

— December 18 —

Germany	3	United States	3
Scorers: Andy Moeller (17th), Stefan Kuntz (79th), Andreas Thom (89th). Attendance: 52,397.			

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Bursaspor	2	Galatasaray	1
Fenerbahce	1	Karsiyaka	0
Altay	3	Besiktas	2
Genclerbirliigi	3	Gaziantepspor	1
Kayserispor	4	Kocaelispor	0
Sariyer	0	Trabzonspor	1
Zeytinburnuspor	3	Karabukspor	0
Samsunspor	3	Ankaragucu	1

TABLE

Galatasaray	15	11	2	2	33	17	35
Fenerbahce	15	9	5	1	29	15	32
Samsunspor	15	8	5	2	23	14	29

Trabzonspor	15	8	4	3	26	17	28
Besiktas	15	7	4	4	29	15	25
Genclerbirliigi	15	7	3	5	31	24	24
Kocaelispor	15	7	3	5	26	26	24
Bursaspor	15	6	4	5	19	19	22
Kayserispor	15	6	3	6	18	20	21
Karsiyaka	15	5	2	8	11	17	17
Zeytinburnuspor	15	4	4	7	15	19	16
Gaziantepspor	15	4	3	8	26	30	15
Sariyer	15	4	3	8	12	20	15
Ankaragucu	15	3	3	9	19	31	12
Altay	15	2	4	9	15	25	10
Karabukspor	15	1	4	10	12	35	7

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

MVV Maastricht	1	Willem II Tilburg	0
PSV Eindhoven	1	FC Groningen	1
VVV Venlo	0	FC 20 Enschede	0

TABLE

Ajax Amsterdam	17	14	2	1	47	9	30
Feyenoord R.	17	12	4	1	34	13	28
PSV Eindhoven	17	9	5	3	31	17	23
Roda JC Kerkrade	17	10	3	4	28	17	23
Vitesse Arnhem	16	10	2	4	33	14	22
Willem II Tilburg	18	8	3	7	28	21	19

'6 FROM 38 POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 439

MON. 27TH DECEMBER, 1993

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ASTON VILLA	MAN. CITY	1
	IPSWICH	WEST HAM	2
	Q.P.R.	OLDHAM	3
	SOUTHAMPTON	CHELSEA	4
	SWINDON	ARSENAL	5
	TOTTENHAM	NORWICH	6
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	BARNLEY	DERBY	7
	BOLTON	SUNDERLAND	8
	GRIMSBY	NOTTS C.	9
	LEICESTER	WATFORD	10
	MILLWALL	PORTSMOUTH	11
	NOTTINGHAM F.	MIDDLESBRO	12
	OXFORD UTD.	CRYSTAL P.	13
	PETERBORO	LUTON	14
	SOUTHEND	CHARLTON	15
	TRANMERE	WOLVES	16
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WEST BROM	BRISTOL CITY	17
	BOURNEMOUTH	BRENTFORD	18
	BRADFORD C.	ROTHERHAM	19
	BRISTOL R.	READING	20
	BURNLEY	WREXHAM	21
	CARDIFF	SWANSEA	22
	FULHAM	PORT VALE	23
	HARTLEPOOL	HUDDERSFIELD	24
	LEYTON O.	CAMBRIDGE U.	25
	STOCKPORT	BLACKPOOL	26
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	YORK	HULL	27
	CHESTERFIELD	DONCASTER	28
	COLCHESTER	MANSFIELD	29
	CREWE	WIGAN A.	30
	DARLINGTON	CARLISLE	31
	GILLINGHAM	NORTHAMPTON	32
	HEREFORD	SHREWSBURY	33
	LINCOLN	SCUNTHORPE	34
	PRESTON	CHESTER	35
	TORQUAY	WYCOMBE	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	WALSALL	BURY	37
	KNOWSLEY UTD.	FLEETWOOD	38
	RESERVE MATCHES		
	MARINE	COLWYN BAY	39
	MORECAMBE	BARROW	40
	WINSFORD	LEEK	41
	DUNDEE U.	ABERDEEN	42
	HIBERNIAN	PARTICK	43
	KILMARNOCK	DUNDEE	44
	MOTHERWELL	CELTIC	45
SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV.	RAITH	S. JOHNSTONE	46
	RANGERS	HEARTS	47
	BRECHIN	HAMILTON	48
	CLYDE	MORTON	49
	CLYDEBANK	AYR	50
	FALKIRK	DUNFERMLINE	51
	ST MIRREN	AIRDRIE	52
	STIRLING A.	DUMBARTON	53
	ALBION R.	MONTROSE	54
	ARBROATH	EAST FIFE	55

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 438

SAT. 18TH DECEMBER, 1993

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	BLACKBURN	MAN. CITY	1	2-0
	COVENTRY	OLDHAM	2	1-1
	EVERTON	NEWCASTLE	3	0-2
	IPSWICH	NORWICH	4	2-1
	SHEFF. WED.	WEST HAM	5	5-0
	SWINDON	SOUTHAMPTON	6	2-1
	TOTTENHAM	LIVERPOOL	7	3-3
	WIMBLEDON	SHEFF. UTD.	8	2-0
	BIRMINGHAM	CHARLTON	9	1-0
	BOLTON	GRIMSBY	10	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	BRISTOL C.	WOLVES	11	2-1
	MIDDLESBRO	NOTTS C.	12	3-0
	PORTSMOUTH	OXFORD UTD.	13	1-1
	BOURNEMOUTH	BRISTOL R.	14	3-0
	BRIGHTON	BRADFORD C.	15	0-1
	EXETER	BRENTFORD	16	2-2
	HULL	BARNET	17	4-4
	LEYTON O.	CARDIFF	18	2-2
	PORT VALE	BURNLEY	19	1-1
	READING	HUDDERSFIELD	20	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	SWANSEA	YORK	21	1-2
	CHESTERFIELD	GILLINGHAM	22	3-2
	NORTHAMPTON	BURY	23	0-1
	ROCHDALE	DARLINGTON	24	0-0
	SCARBORO	HEREFORD	25	0-1
	SCUNTHORPE	WIGAN A.	26	1-0
	TORQUAY	WALSALL	27	0-1
	WYCOMBE	CARLISLE	28	2-0
	BATH	NORTHWICH	29	0-0
	BROMSGROVE	STALYBRIDGE	30	2-0
G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEAGUE	GATESHEAD	WOKING	31	1-1
	KETTERING	WELLING UTD.	32	2-2
	MERTHYR T.	MACCLESFIELD	33	2-1
	SOUTHPORT	KID'MINSTER	34	1-1
	STAFFORD	SLOUGH	35	0-0
	TELFORD	DAG'HAM & R.	36	0-0
	WITTON A.	ALTRINCHAM	37	0-1
	BASHLEY	GRESLEY	38	pp



ADAMS SINKS ARSENAL

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

LEEDS 2 ARSENAL 1

An own goal by Arsenal's Tony Adams was the decisive strike as Leeds beat Arsenal 2-1.

Adams' 60th minute header would have been considered a brilliant effort had it been at the other end. The Gunners captain left his 'keeper David Seaman, back after suspension, with no chance.

Leeds' skipper Gary McAllister hit a 21st minute opening goal, his sixth of the



Tony Adams scored the winner.

season for the 1991/92 champions, after Arsenal failed to clear a free kick.

But it was a lead that lasted only six minutes. Kevin Campbell, a last minute replacement for flu-stricken Paul Merson, got the final touch to John Jensen's header to score.

Sweden's Anders Limpar also had a good game, and a bold first-half lob went just wide.

BLACKBURN 2 MAN. CITY 0

Blackburn beat Manchester City 2-0 at Ewood Park. Kevin Gallacher converted a low Mike Newell cross in the 13th minute and Alan Shearer added another in the 76th minute. City have won just one of their last 11 games.



EVERTON 0 NEWCASTLE 2

Newcastle's Andy Cole hit his 18th league goal of the season as Newcastle United won 2-0 at Everton. Cole struck in the 14th minute in a move set up by former Goodison favourite Peter Beardsley.

Beardsley added another in the 76th minute.

SHEFF WED 5 WEST HAM 0

Sheffield Wednesday, which has lost only one game in its last 14, crushed West Ham 5-0 with Chris Waddle involved in all the goals.

West Ham's Mike Marsh conceded a first-half own goal, but minutes after the break, Wednesday went 3-0 ahead through Mark Bright and Waddle. Nigel Jemson and Carlton Palmer completed the rout.



Leeds United's Gary Speed.

LIVERPOOL 3 SPURS 3

In a topsy-turvy affair at Tottenham, Liverpool fought back from a Vinnie Samways goal for Spurs to lead 3-1. But the Anfield club surrendered its advantage for a 3-3 final score.

A superb free-kick by

Jamie Redknapp, and two goals from Robbie Fowler, one a penalty, looked certain to bring Liverpool three points. But a 69th minute penalty by Mike Hazard and Darren Caskey's further effort earned Spurs a well-deserved point.

English international John Barnes left the pitch with a

groin strain in the second half as Liverpool suffered further problems.

IPSWICH 2 NORWICH 1

At Portman Road, Edward Youds' last minute winner for Ipswich brought misery for Norwich City.

Ipswich took an eighth minute lead from a penalty by skipper John Wark after a foul by Norwich's Ian Butterworth.

But the Canaries hit back five minutes before half time when Welsh international Mark Bowen thumped home a 20-yarder.



WIMBLEDON 2 SHEFF UTD 0

Wimbledon's Warren Barton, and Dean Holdsworth, fed by John Fashanu, spelled a 2-0 defeat for Sheffield United in a four game at Selhurst Park. Dane Whitehouse had gone close for the Blades before the break.

COVENTRY 1 OLDHAM 1

Coventry and Oldham were struggling against a strong wind at Highfield Road, but it was the Sky Blues' Roy Wegerle who broke the deadlock in the 29th minute with a close range goal. But Oldham equalised through Scot Paul Bernard for a 1-1 final score.

SWINDON 2 SOUTHAMPTON 1

Swindon struggled with suspensions and injuries, but Paul Bodin and Keith Scott

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP QUARTER FINAL

Manchester United v Portsmouth
Wimbledon v Sheffield Wednesday
Nottingham Forest v Tranmere
Tottenham v Aston Villa

(To be played week commencing Jan 10)

FA CUP DRAW

Barnet v Chelsea (at Chelsea)
Birmingham v Kidderminster
Bolton v Everton
Bristol City v Liverpool
Bromsgrove v Burnley
Cardiff v Middlesbrough
Charlton v Burnley (all ticket)
Grimsby v Wigan
Leeds v Crewe
Exeter v Aston Villa
Luton v Southend
Man City v Leicester
Newcastle v Coventry
Notts County v Sutton United
Oldham v Derby
Oxford v Tranmere
Peterborough v Tottenham
Plymouth v Chester
Preston v Bournemouth
Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest
Southampton v Port Vale
Stockport v Queens Park Rangers
Stoke v Bath
Sunderland v Carlisle
Swindon v Ipswich
West Ham v Watford
Wimbledon v Scunthorpe
Wolverhampton v Crystal Palace
Wycombe v Norwich
(to be played on Saturday, January 8)
Sheffield United v Manchester United
(to be played on Monday January 10)
Millwall v Arsenal
(to be played on Sunday, January 9)

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION

Manchester Utd	21	16	4	1	43	17	52
Leeds	21	11	6	4	36	24	39
Blackburn	20	11	5	4	28	17	38
Newcastle	20	10	5	5	37	19	35
Arsenal	21	9	7	5	20	13	34
Norwich	19	8	7	4	30	21	31
Liverpool	20	9	4	7	33	26	31
Queen's Pk R.	20	9	4	7	34	28	31
Aston Villa	21	8	7	6	24	23	31
Ipswich	21	7	8	6	20	24	29
West Ham	21	8	5	8	18	25	29
Wimbledon	20	7	7	6	23	26	28
Sheffield Wed.	21	6	9	6	37	29	27
Tottenham	21	6	9	6	29	24	27
Everton	21	7	4	10	20	26	25
Coventry	20	5	9	6	21	24	24
Manchester City	21	4	7	10	19	27	19
Oldham	21	4	7	10	16	32	19
Sheffield United	21	3	8	10	18	33	17
Chelsea	19	3	6	10	12	22	15
Southampton	21	4	2	15	19	33	14
Swindon	21	2	8	11	19	43	14

RESULTS

Blackburn 2 (Gallacher 13th min, Shearer 76th)
Manchester City 0. Attendance: 18,741
Coventry 1 (Wegerle 29th) Oldham 1 (Bernard 50th) 1-0. 11,800
Everton 0 Newcastle 2 (Cole 14th, Beardsley 76th) 25,189.
Ipswich 2 (Wark 8th pen, Megson 90th o.g.) Norwich 1 (Bowen 40th) 19,498
Leeds 2 (McAllister 21st, Adams 60th o.g) Arsenal 1 (Campbell 27th) 37,515
Sheffield Wednesday 5 (Marsh 35th o.g, Bright 47th, Waddle 51st, Jemson 72nd, Palmer 87th) West Ham 0. 26,350
Swindon 2 (Bodin 12th, Scott 66th) Southampton 1 (Le Tissier 38th) 13,284
Tottenham 3 (Samways 37th, Hazard 69th pen, Caskey 77th)
Liverpool 3 (Fowler 49th, 54th pen, Redknapp 52nd) 31,394
Wimbledon 2 (Barton 49th, Holdsworth 67th) Sheffield United 0. 6,728
Manchester United 3 Aston Villa 1.

Yorath in doubt

Terry Yorath's future as Wales manager still remains in the balance.

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) first announced that Yorath's contract was not being renewed at the end of the month because new terms could not be agreed.

But Yorath met FAW chief executive Alun Evans for further talks and afterwards said: "Hopefully, he will come back to me. There is not that much between us.

"My demands are not excessive. I asked probably for nearly a third of my wages again on top of what they were."

Evans said: "Terry has indicated that his position is not entrenched in stone. He has come forward with some new ideas and I will be going back to the committee to pass on what he has told me."

Yorath, manager for the past five and a half years, just missed out on guiding his team to the 1994 World Cup finals. Needing to beat Romania in their final qualifier to earn their ticket, Wales lost 2-1.



Terry Yorath

BLANCHFLOWER'S LAST GAME

They flocked into church last Thursday to pay tribute to a man who played soccer "as a great musician plays music, with such flair and imagination" — the incomparable Danny Blanchflower.

Great names from the world of football were among 250 mourners at the funeral of a man whose gifts of leadership and sportsmanship graced Tottenham Hotspur and Northern Ireland in the glory days of the 1950s and 1960s.

The man who led Spurs in 1960-61, when the north



Londoners performed the historic feat of winning the League and FA Cup for the first time this century, died last week after enduring the miseries of Alzheimer's disease. He was 67.

Bill Nicholson, manager of that double-winning side, and former Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham gave a moving address.

Mr Bingham recalled boyhood days in Belfast when Danny, five years his senior, was his hero, then preceded him into the English game.

"He was a player you could never ignore," he said.

"In all the years I played with him I never saw him get booked, retaliate, or get angry — he was such a fair player."



WHAT NOW FOR GASCOIGNE?

BY STEPHEN COPPING

In the 1990 World Cup clash between England and Belgium both sides were heading for a draw. With three minutes to go, however, Paul Gascoigne's beautifully crafted free kick found David Platt, suddenly England were on their way to the World Cup quarter finals and Belgium, who had dominated the game, were unceremoniously dumped out of the competition.

England, thanks to Gascoigne's brilliance went onto reach the 1990 World Cup semi-finals, but the temperamental star was suspended from the game against West Germany and England lost on penalties.

For Gascoigne it got worse.

Less than a year later in the 1991 FA Cup final, while playing for Tottenham, Gascoigne was out of the game for a year when he had to undergo a knee reconstruction.

Gascoigne's ill-timed tackle on Nottingham Forest's Gary Charles forced him out of the Cup final within 10 minutes.

Lazio, who had agreed to buy Gascoigne for \$12 million after the Cup final, did eventually sign him a year later.

However, 1992, his first year in Italy, was plagued by injury, immature actions and by Gascoigne's own admission, some average performances.

Undoubtedly, the Lazio midfielder has failed to live up to his 1990 World Cup promise and through injuries, attitude, weight and inconsistency, has fallen from one of the best players in the world to a troubled star living on past glories.

Only two weeks ago scouts from Liverpool, Blackburn, Newcastle and Leeds have been linked with the enigmatic Gascoigne. A knock-down \$8 million was rumoured to be the asking price for the Rome based England international.

However, last week, Lazio's 3-1 victory over Juventus saw the return of Gazza. He dominated the Lazio midfield, outclassed playmaker and World Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio, and scored a last minute goal to really lift the 60,000 crowd.

Lazio boss, Dino Zoff proclaimed after the game: "Just where Gascoigne goes from here is entirely up to him."

"He has to keep working. We want him to stay but he has to get himself back to top fitness and form."

Zoff added: "To be honest, I thought he was some way off top fitness but it's now up to him."

Gascoigne had not played for two months (out with an achilles tendon injury) prior to the Juventus clash, had missed England's World Cup exit in Rotterdam against



Paul Gascoigne against Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup quarter-final. England won 3-2.

GASCOIGNE PRO-FILE

LAZIO AND ENGLAND

Born: 27.5.67 in Gateshead, England.

Previous clubs: Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspurs.

Debut for Newcastle in 1984.

Debut for England in 1989.

Total transfer fees: \$18 million.



Holland, and many soccer pundits were predicting Gazza returning home to England in the new year.

Just what the Geordie-born Gascoigne does now is open to question. England are out of the World Cup, but the European Championships are in England in 1996, and the World Cup in France two years later could see Gazza at his best as a 31-year-old - guiding the likes of Newcastle's Andy Cole.

By then Gascoigne could be at his peak. Germany's Lothar Matthaus at 32 has just won his 104th cap (Germany v Argentina) for his country. Many argue that Matthaus is playing the best football of his career.

If Gascoigne stays in Rome with Lazio he could have the stage to play in

the proposed European club format in 1995 - a competition guaranteed to attract the world's finest players.

But just how important is Gascoigne to Lazio? Croatian striker Alen Boksic believes he must stay in Italy.

"Considering he hadn't played for two months, Paul did some tremendous things out there against Juventus," said Boksic. "He has magic in his boots."

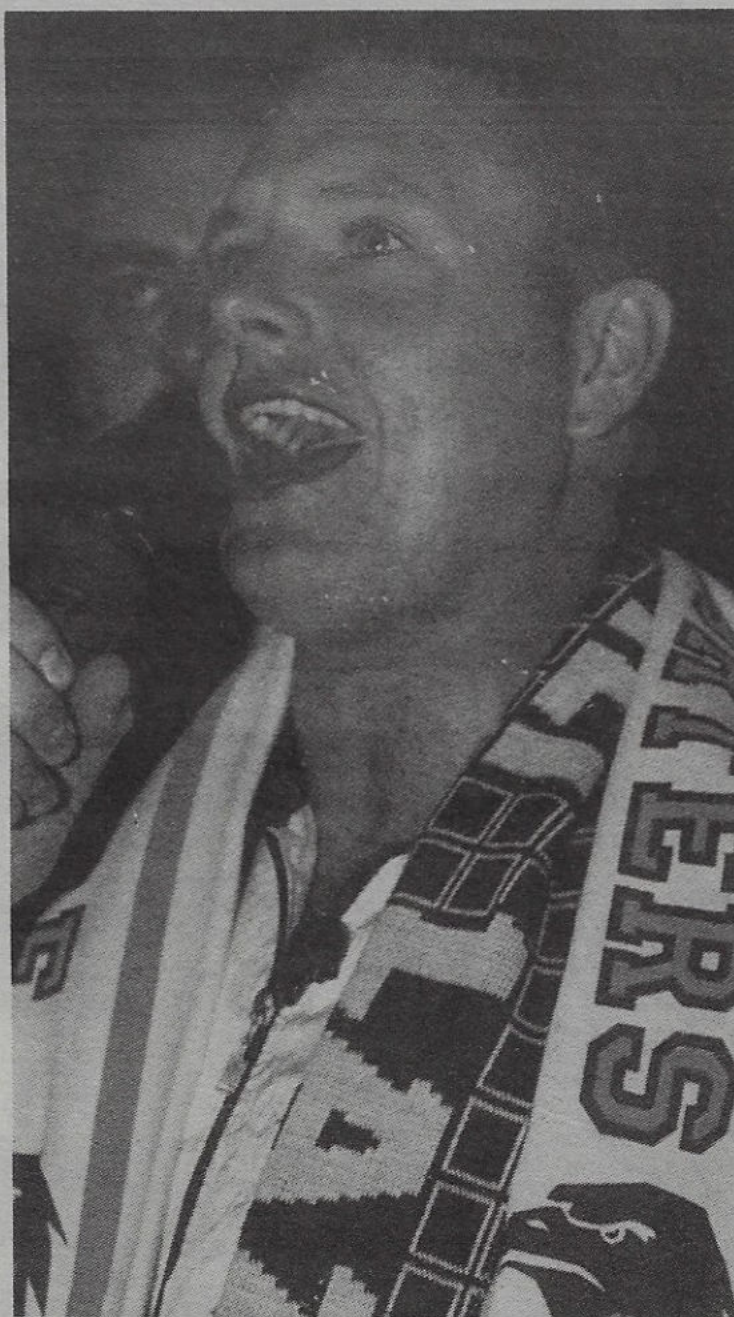
"He is very important for Lazio. I hope he continues to improve because then Signori and myself will score a lot of goals."

Lazio boss Giovanni Trapattoni said: "It was a courageous performance from Paul because he has been out for so long."

"We haven't seen the real Gascoigne yet. The signs are good, but he needs more time," said Trapattoni.

So will Gascoigne stay in Italy with Lazio or return to England?

If Gazza does leave Lazio, AC Milan should not be ruled out of signing him.



Paul Gascoigne: wants to stay in Italy.

The asking price is in the region of \$15 million. In England Liverpool and Blackburn are the only serious contenders, mainly because they could afford the transfer fee and Gascoigne's wages - said to be \$30,000 a week.

But the immediate future of the England star is with

Lazio. They will hope his recent form and fitness improves and if they can challenge AC Milan and Inter for the Serie A championship, then perhaps by then 'Gazza mania' could have finally transported itself from London to soccer mad Rome.

BRITAIN IN BRIEF...

SPURS RELEGATION THREAT!

English Premiership club Tottenham Hotspur face heavy fines or even relegation after being accused of making illegal cash handouts to a series of their players — including England international Paul Gascoigne and current manager Ossie Ardiles.

The claims were made in a television programme screened by Granada TV.

The "World in Action" report claimed more than \$890,000 were paid out in interest and tax-free loans that broke Football League rules.

And it was also claimed \$230,000 in interest-free payments were given to Ardiles during his time as a player at White Hart Lane in the early 1980s.

Swindon Town were relegated from the First to the Third Division before appealing and being placed in the Second Division after being found guilty of irregular payments in 1990.

A Premiership inquiry has already been set up to look into the whole question of contracts and transfers in football.

"These new allegations could well fall within our sphere of investigation," said spokesman Adrian Cook.

The programme said the Inland Revenue, who launched an investigation into the club's affairs in 1991, now wanted a down payment of \$1.1 million in back tax from the club.

Granada claimed to have details of a report from auditors Touche Ross, requested by Spurs' new regime under present chairman Alan Sugar when he took control two years ago.

Among their findings was that England superstar Paul Gascoigne had a \$67,000 interest free loan waived when he left for Italian club Lazio with a \$A157,000 ex-gratia payment.

DONS KNOCK LIVERPOOL OUT OF CUP

Wimbledon knocked Liverpool out of the English League Cup and reached the quarter-finals in a penalty shoot-out. They edged home 4-3 in the fourth round replay after the two sides had been locked at 2-2 at the end of extra time. They next face fellow Premier League side Sheffield Wednesday.

Wimbledon's hero was Dutch goalkeeper Hans Segers, who saved three spot kicks after conceding an own goal.

BRADY'S A SEAGULL

Former Irish star and Celtic boss Liam Brady was named Brighton's new manager.

Brady's appointment comes after he resigned at top Scottish club Celtic two months ago after a string of bad results.

The ex-Republic of Ireland midfielder takes over from Barry Lloyd who left the club "by mutual consent" earlier this month.

Brady takes over with Brighton struggling near the foot of the Second Division, its lowest league position for 19 years.

The job attracted more than 20 applications, with Brady chosen as Albion's 15th post-war boss.

During Lloyd's stewardship Brighton made a profit of \$2.6 million in transfer dealings, but the money-troubled club's league fortunes have plummeted and bad results cost him his job.

Earlier this month Brighton escaped a winding-up order in the High Court when it met debts of nearly \$1.3 million.

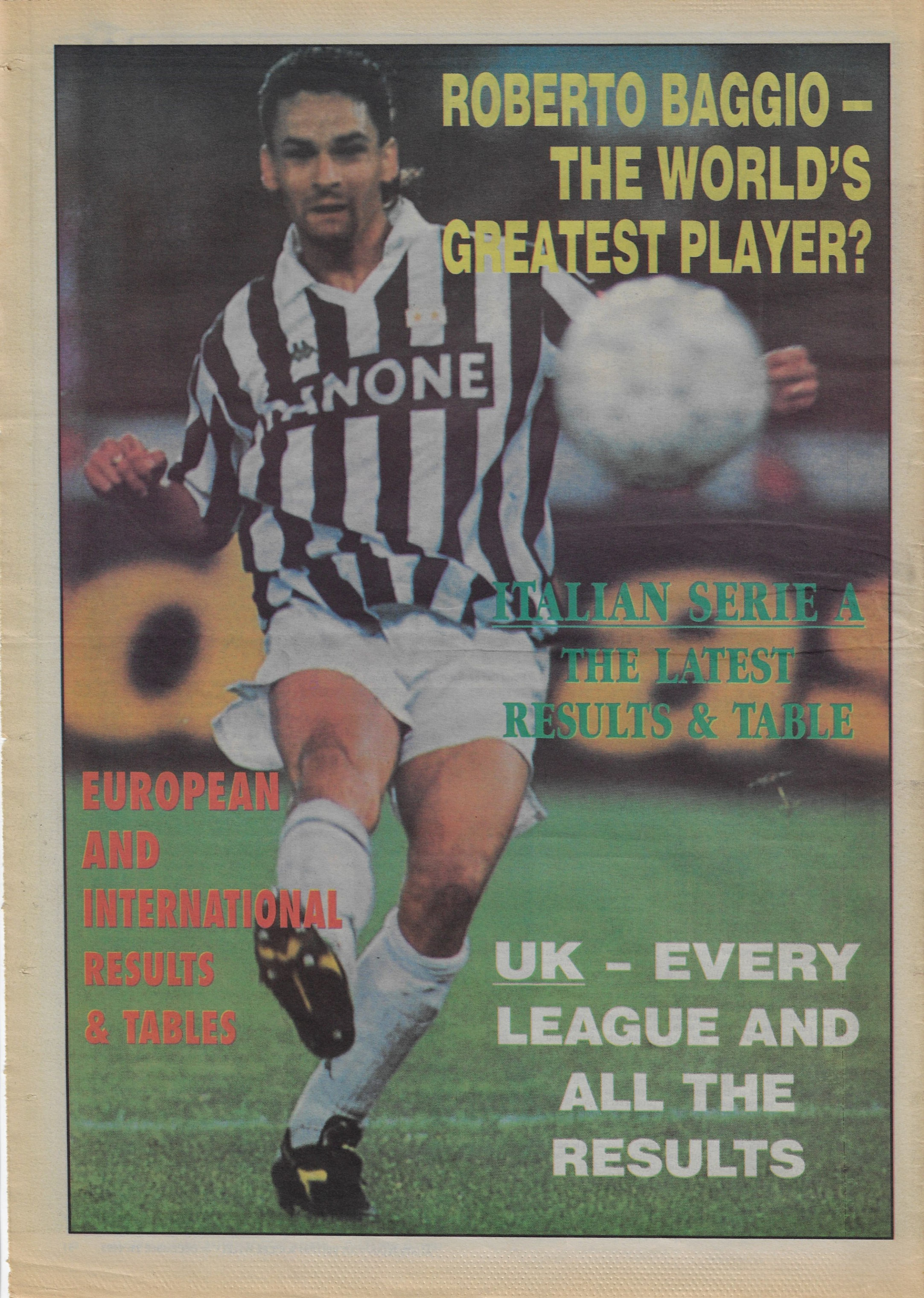
SCOTTISH PROMOTION

Scottish League clubs meet in Glasgow on January 12 to decide which two minor league sides will join them next season.

The five clubs competing for the two places available under league reconstruction — Caledonian Thistle from Inverness, Elgin City, Ross County, Gala and Gretna — put their cases this Thursday to representatives of the 38 clubs. The Dutch soccer union (KNVB) is giving the go-ahead to allow fireworks to be let off at the start of league matches.

The KNVB said its approval should be seen as an experiment in trying to regulate the ad hoc setting-off of fireworks by fans which could often be dangerous in crowds.

Fireworks will be permitted only for a limited period before kick-off with the agreement of local police and match officials.

A full-page photograph of Roberto Baggio, an Italian footballer, in his white and black striped AC Milan jersey. He is captured in a dynamic pose, running on a green pitch while holding a white football with both hands. The background is blurred, showing other players and spectators.

ROBERTO BAGGIO – THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLAYER?

**ITALIAN SERIE A
THE LATEST
RESULTS & TABLE**

**EUROPEAN
AND
INTERNATIONAL
RESULTS
& TABLES**

**UK – EVERY
LEAGUE AND
ALL THE
RESULTS**